



A. PARLIAMENT. of Women

q<sup>d</sup> it at Ashridge. Not.



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~~Michael Baskin~~ 132  
THE  
PARLIAMENT

OF

WOMEN:

Or, A Compleat

HISTORY

Of the

Proceedings and Debates,

Of a particular Janto, of

Ladies and Gentlewomen,

With a design to alter the Go-  
vernment of the World.

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*By way of Satyr.*

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L O N D O N,

Printed for John Melford, at the Crown  
in the Pall-mall, 1684.

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THE  
PARLIAMENT  
OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND IRELAND  
IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF  
GEORGE THE THIRD  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES  
IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED  
ON A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION  
RELATIVE TO THE  
PETITION OF THE  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN  
OF THE COUNTY OF  
WILTSHIRE  
WITH A GLOSS TO THE  
TERMS AND PHRASES  
USED IN THE  
DEBATES

LONDON:  
Printed by J. DODD, in Pall-mall.  
1763.



and Concomitancy in their Complaints,  
they assumed to themselves the Name  
of their Sex, Representatives, and took  
a Resolution to seek Redress in a Parlia-  
mentary way. Having likewise agreed  
to care for their **POST**  
by Almanac (for the word Clock is  
now to be read off of Religion and

# PARLIAMENT

The Place that was debated on for  
this great Assembly, was the New York in  
Eastwick Church; first, because it was by Vir-  
ginia's request to be the place where  
the Constitution was first made;  
and secondly, because the Assembly  
never lay so convenient in the Road.

# WOMEN.

**Y**OU are not to imagine that  
this Assembly was ever called  
together by Writ or Summons,  
nor do I believe the Penny post was  
much concern'd in the Convocation;  
Only a certain Company of Select La-  
dies, and Female Burgesses, ambitious  
of the Title of Parliamentary, never cease  
till they had talk'd themselves into a nu-  
merous Society. These having been  
long brooding over the Grievances of  
their Sex, had first their private Con-  
sults and Correspondencies, till at length  
encourag'd by a General Unanimity,  
there

and Concurrence in their Complaints, they assum'd to themselves the Name of their *Sexes Representatives*, and took a Resolution to seek Redress in a Parliamentary way. Having likewise agreed to carry on their Design under the gaudy *Mantuaes* (for the word Cloak is now to be cast off) of Religion, and Property.

The Place that was debated on for this great Assembly, was the *Blew-house* in *Enfield-Chase*; first, because it was by vulgar Fame reputed to be the place where the *Gun-powder-Plot* was first hatch'd; and secondly, because the *Red-Lyon* at *Barnet* lay so convenient in the Road. But that being displeasing, as being too scary, and fearing to be troubled with their Capital Enemies the *Plas*, it cruded too much together at such a Busy time as that, they at last concluded upon *Merton-Abby*, which they found to be a place where their Husbands Ancestors had sat in former times, and made several Laws, which they resolv'd to repeal upon the same spot.

The next thing taken into consideration, was, in what Robes they should sit, whether in Men's or Womens Apparel, whether with Beards, or without 'em. There.

Thereupon they agreed to sit in Mens habit, and for Quickness sake, to make use of their Husbands Clothes. For it was but reason, they said, that they should wear the Breeches, that were going to assume the power. And as for Beards, it was alledged, That the general Custom of shaving close among Men, had lay'd them the trouble of that Debate. Then as for Periwigs, the Mode had already so much befriended them, that was but putting on a Hat, and they were perfect Men, without contradiction, as good as ever Leg was laid over, from the very Crown of the Head to the very bottom of the Chin, where the chiefest difference between the Sexes lay publick to the World.

Now when the time of the Sessions began to approach, and that it behoved them to repair to the General Rendezvous, these Women made an easie shift to steal from their Husbands, whom they left snoring, and fast bound in the chains of Sleep, over-burden'd with the Ponderosity of the last Nights Composition. But Heavens! How you would have blessed your selves? In what an Agony you would have been for fear of losing the Drums of your Ears, to have heard

how the men swore *Walsingham* the next morning, when they awak'd. Some for being disappointed in the it Morning Exercises, others not being able to remember where they had laid their Clothes when they went to bed. One mis'd his Shoes and Stockings; another his Perriwig, Hat, Sword, Fring'd-Gloves; another was confin'd to his Chamber for want of his Breeches and Coat. They that had but one Suit were in a miserable Condition; they who had two were great losers however, for the Women carried away Silver, Gold, Watches, French Tweezers, and all away, they had only reason to laugh, who had cozened their Wives, by losing all their Money the night before.

Upon the tenth of the month *Amberstern* on *April*, according to the *Amberstern* Account, and in the two hundred and fortieth Bissextile or Leap year from the Reign of Pope *Joan*, this famous Female-Parliament open'd. At what time the Honorable *Penelope* Countess of *Mount-Dragon*, being choic'd Speaker of the Upper House, after a deep Silence commanded, began as follows.

Ladies

Ladies and Gentlewomen,

**I**t is to me the greatest Sign and happy Omen for the World of future Success in our Debates, and prosperous Issue of our Consultations, that I see ye here appearing so numerous, and with so much Alacrity in your Countenances. From whence I have conceiv'd assured Hopes, that all things will tend by your painful endeavours to the Dignity and Profit of the Female-Common-wealth. You all know how we have suffered for a long time under the Oppression of men, who have all this while taken upon them to govern the Business of the World, in their Councils, Assemblies and Cabals, while we sit to our Distaffs, and our Needles, have slothfully deserted our own Cause.

As by my faith have we, presently cryed one of the Commoners; You speak like an honest good Lady—— And was going on with a long story, had not some of her Acquaintance check'd her——By my faith, quoth she, but I will speak——Do we not come all to speak here? And then she clapp'd her hands, and was beginning to lift up her voice against the Men——But then——

Madam, quo' the Speaker—— Pray  
 bere me out —— You shall speak as much  
 as you please when it comes to your Turn —  
 in the mean time bear me out —— Now  
 I say Ladies, that from this oppression  
 of Men and our own neglect it comes to  
 pass, that we have no share in the Go-  
 vernment of the Common-wealth, that  
 Men only make use of Us, as we make  
 use of our Bed-pans and Close-stools; So  
 that if we let 'em go on to fool us as they  
 have hitherto done, I refer it to your  
 judgment what will become of us ——  
 Why then give me leave to speak —— He  
 tell ye, cry'd one —— You speak! cry'd ano-  
 ther, why should you speak before me? ——  
 My Lady Speaker, since you have re-  
 ferr'd it to my Judgment —— Nay  
 Lord! which if ye interrupt me thus ——  
 I shall nere ha' done. With that they  
 cry'd out all together, Go on, my Lady  
 Speaker, go on —— The interruption  
 thus over —— Bishops, said she,  
 have their Convocations, Souldiers their  
 Councils of War, even Emmets have  
 their assemblies upon Ant-Hills; only  
 Women of all other Creatures are de-  
 barr'd from all Society. Ay truly Ma-  
 dam, so they are —— Pray be quiet  
 here —— Can't you hold one minute  
 or

fortwo:— I think the Devil's in ye  
 all — And so having procur'd a  
 third silence, she proceeded. Nor have  
 we undertaken, Ladies, a thing that e-  
 ver was attempted before, for I remem-  
 ber I have read a story of one *Heliogaba-  
 lus*. Who this *Heliogabalus* was, is no-  
 thing to you nor me; But I am sure he  
 was an Emperor, and in his time the  
 Women had their Senates & Assemblies  
 to consult of publick affairs as well as  
 Men. This Example of our Ancestors  
 for some time intermitted, it behoves  
 us now to reflect. Never more need—  
 We find how that under the Reigns  
 of Men your Monarchs are nothing but  
 wars and destructions: the Divines are  
 at daggers drawing with the Divines;  
 the Philosophers at Mortal Enmity with  
 the Philosophers; nothing but confusion  
 in the World; which makes me be-  
 lieve that if the Reins of Government  
 were delivered into our hands, it would  
 go much better with the world then it  
 does; let me advise ye therefore Ladies  
 and Gentlewomen, to consider the  
 great work ye have in hand, not to be  
 tumultuous in your disputes, but to shew  
 your selves moderate and discreet; for  
 that it behoves us to out-do our Oppressors,

Means well in Fact as in Talk; by which  
 means when we have got the Govern-  
 ment of the World into our hands, we  
 may be able to keep it by prudence and  
 good Management. But above all things  
 Ladies beware of gosselling about tri-  
 vial things; have a care of peaching  
 one another. For Women are not ig-  
 norant that Women do those things in  
 secret which they would not have all  
 the World know; therefore if any  
 Gentlewoman or Lady be privy to any  
 secret of her Friend, let her by no  
 means divulge it in Heat and Passion;  
 for that would be not to lay herself,  
 but her intimate also open to our Oppres-  
 sors. And they heaven knows, when  
 they find that Women lay themselves  
 open, are apt enough to take all advan-  
 tages against them; therefore I say Ladies,  
 and Gentlewomen beware how ye ex-  
 pose your selves; for women like all  
 sorts of Commodities, lose their intrin-  
 sick value, by being too often exposed,  
 we are not therefore now to expose our  
 selves, but to oppose our selves; we are  
 to oppose our selves against the Crafts,  
 Wiles, Subtilties and Policies of those that  
 have for so many hundred years enslav'd  
 us, and when we have brought our  
 Tyrants



Tyrants under our Girdles, they'll then be glad to *expose, repose, depose, compose*, or any *pose* that we shall *impose* upon 'em. And then Wee'l pick and choose, and leave and refuse ——— I have seen Women quarrel, and scold, and wrangle, and fight, and scratch one another at Church, and all about the precedency in a Pew; To prevent any such disorders in this great assembly let me advise ye in the first place, to let the most noble to take place according to their several degrees, and the Antiquity of those degrees. Let the Commoners take place according to the number of Children which they have brought forth; let others rank themselves according to their ages, of which they shall be bound to bring a Certificate out of the Parish Church Book; and let them that never had any Children sit lowermost; as for the Widows let them that have Children sit in the Middle between the Married Mothers; but for them that have none, nor ever had, let them sit lowermost of all. Thus Ladies and Gentlemen, I have as briefly as I could, tho I know with no little force upon your Patience, declar'd to you the end of this Assembly; go therefore together and

be quick in your dispatches; for by that means it may so fall out that we may surprize our Enemies; and I have heard my Husband say that the Surprize of one Town is more honourable than the taking of ten by force: therefore if we can, let us surprize our Enemies.

The Lady Speaker had no sooner finished, but she was unanimously applauded by the whole Assembly; you would have sworn they had all lay'd, there was such general Cackling over the whole House, and one of the Commoners among the rest, thrusting forth her Lily white Neck with a Swan-like grace, propounded to choose the *Lady Speaker* for their supream Captain; which proposition was immediately and universally received; and then they besought her to stick close to them with her Counsel and Wisdom, protesting on the other side to stand by her with their lives and fortunes. By the pleasures of my Youth, then cry'd an ancient Matron, a glorious Cause, a most glorious Cause — What must we now march after the Drums again, to the tune of, *Cuckolds come digg, come digg*? — Well, if I must, I faith I'll be one of the foremost — I have carry'd a basket of  
of

of Earth before now ——— Nay, my  
 Lady Speaker ( dropping a low Cur-  
 tesie ) I am as ready once more to offer  
 up my Bodkin and Thimble to the  
 support of this glorious Cause, as ever I  
 gave them formerly to the *Publick Faith*.  
 With that, And I, and I, and I, they  
 all cry'd ; away, away, away, and so  
 retir'd to their own Apartments.

And now it is requisite you should  
 know who were the most Eminent  
 Speakers in this Assembly ; and first,  
 there were in the Upper House,

The Countess of Mount Orguell, Speaker,  
 The Dutchess of Female-Charmes.  
 The Dutchess of Bleeding Hearts.  
 The Dutchess of Wantage.  
 The Dutchess of Babylon.  
 The Dutchess of Decay'd Vertue.

### Countesses.

Abella Countess of Coyland.  
 Mary Countess of Storm-land.  
 Frances Countess of Rump-ford.  
 Lucretia Countess of Mirth and Glee.  
 Joanna Countess of Rule-the-Road.  
 Mandlin Countess of Maiden Broadlye.  
 Artemisa Countess of Nothing-ham-Fire.  
 Dorothy

*Dorothy Countess of Newcastle-Under-legg.*

*Martina Countess of Bedfordia.*

*Lucy Countess of Brickle-ware.*

*Penelope Countess of Rutlandia.*

*Rebeckah Countess of Whigg-land.*

*Rachel Countess of Tory-land.*

*Ariemisia Countess of The Bagno.*

*Orania Countess of Cuckold-skire.*

*The Lady Figgie Baroness of Giddie-Hall.*

*The Lady Rusty Rusty Baroness of  
Tongue-Castle.*

*The Lady Crack-Jart Baroness of Lapdog  
Meres.*

*The Lady Baifex-man cu. Baroness of  
Great Harlatty.*

*The Lady Clara Baroness of Itching.*

*The Lady Susanna Baroness of Horn Fair.*

*The Lady Ann Baroness of Rising.*

*The Lady Lucida Baroness of the Darby  
Ale-bottle.*

### Commoners.

*Madam Quaint of Whetstone Park Esq;*

*Sr. Susan Lye-fair of Low-lye-down in  
the County of Essex Baronetess.*

*Madam Padamless Esquires.*

*The Lady Squeamish.*

*The Lady Polyhimne.*

*Madam Rantipol.*

**Madam**

Madam Nere-deny-Man.

Sr. Amy Nimble-Clack of Tattle-Hall,  
Baronets.

The Lady Twittle-cum-Twattle.

The Lady Voluble.

The Lady Nose. } all of the Long

The Lady Wrath. } Robe.

The Lady Lustful.

Madam Tomboy.

Mrs. Soake pot.

Proserpina She-Devil of Hell-koufa  
Esquiers.

Madam Tempest.

Madam Rast.

The Lady Restless.

The Lady Sensual.

Madam Fleeshy-Given.

The Lady Lofly.

Mrs. Taradiddle, Sergeantess at Mace.

Carnal Copulation Barebon Clark of the  
Junto.

The Commons being thus retir'd to  
their Appartment, as I said before, they  
chose incontinently for their Speaker,  
Madam Quaint of Whetstone-Park Esq;  
a Lady of great Abilities, and of great  
Eloquence as well as Power.

Madam Quaint being thus elected  
was immediatly ordered to the Chair,  
and

and to distinguish her from the rest, appointed to sit with a Chamber-pot upon her head, and a Tobacco Pipe in her Mouth. But then what to do for a Mace they could not tell: *Madam Rash* propounded to send for the large *Rams-Horn Mace* that was used to be carried before the President of the *Bulls-feather Clubb*; and urg'd that nothing could be more convenient, for two Reasons; first, said she, the Horns are our own gift, so that we may make use of 'em when we please, and when we have done with 'em restore 'em again; if not the same, yet much larger and fairer. Secondly, it will be a great terror to our Husbands, to see what they must trust to, if they disturb us in our designs.

How! said *Madam Lofty*, Ple never yield to it while I breath. Horns are the only Marks of Ignominy that we can bestow upon our Husbands; and shall we take their Marks of Ignominy from 'em, and appropriate 'em to our selves? No ——— in the name of vertue let 'em e'n carry them to their Graves.

With that, up stept the Lady *Polybinne*, a great Poetess, and Antiquary besides, I think, quo' she, Ladies, I may easily

easily reconcile this difference among us; I have read, how formerly our Sex were wont to meet frequently together to celebrate the Feasts of *Bacchus*. These women, mad as *March Hares*, that is as mad as our selves, were wont at those Meetings to have Trunchcons of old Vines carry'd before them, adorned wit<sup>h</sup> those Utensils, for which as we our selves do, they in those times most affected Men: for if it were not for those Utensils of theirs whence arises our kindness to men, I know not I protest, of what use they would be to us; as I hope I shall make out in this Honourable House when time serves. Now Ladies, one of these Trunchcons thus adorn'd was presented to me from beyond the Seas for a great peice of Antiquity, and is at the service of this Assembly if they order me to lend for it; thereupon they cry'd out all together, *Nemine contradicente, send for it, send for it.*

When it was brought into the House, *vertu* got! What a twittering, and giggling, and teighing, there was from one end of the Room to the other. It was viewed without any remorse of Conscience; not one that look'd upon it through her Fingers: *Madam Rantipol* laugh'd

laugh'd out right ——— by my  
 Fackins Ladies, quo' she, I never could  
 find what my Husbands devices were  
 good for before; for I'll assure ye Ladies,  
 they are more for Ornament then use.  
 Thereupon it was ordered that the Per-  
 ticular thanks of the House should be  
 given to the *Lady Polyhimne* for her Ac-  
 ceptable present of such a proper Mace,  
 which was presently delivered to Mrs.  
*Taradoodle*, Sargeantess Attendant.

Having proceeded thus far they sett'd  
 their several Committees, one to draw  
 up the heads of their Greivances against  
 the Male Sex; and to consider of a speedy  
 way of Redress, and of the fittest way  
 to cast off the Yoke of Tyranny which  
 they had so long groan'd under: another  
 of due Elections, in case of the decease  
 of any of their Members, a third for  
 Religion, not that they car'd so much  
 for the Religion Established, as what  
 Religion to set up upon the Alteration of  
 Government; as believing that the Mens  
 and their Religion would never agree.  
 The fourth and last was for Trade;  
 which as they said had been very much  
 abus'd by forraign Interlopers; a fifth  
 Committee was also appointed to look  
 over the statute Books and Law Cases  
 which



which had been made during the Government of Men, and to report what Laws were fit to be repeal'd, and what to be added for the advantage of the Female Commonwealth. The same Committee was also to consider of scandalous and seditious Books and Pamphlets.

Presently cry'd the Lady *Twittle-cum-Twattle*, I have heard my Husband talk much of these Committees, ~~but I~~ I don't like these Committees. — No by my truly I don't like it, that some must be pack't one way into one Room others another way into another Room, and there forsooth they must have all the Talk by themselves, and we must sit hereby our selves, and not hear a word what they say — No, no, by my Faith, that's not the way; I say let's talk all together. I am for that Court ye call *Dover Court*, all Speakers and no Hearers, — the Lady *Polibinne* took her up, and told her that the Method of Parliamentary proceedings requir'd Committees to prepare Matter, and that then they were altogether to consider the Reason of things.

How! quoth the Lady *Twitt-cum-Twatt*, Reasons! what have we to do with Reasons? — 'Tis an Innocation upon the Female

Female Sex, to bring in Reason among  
 us, Reason is the only thing where  
 the Men pretend to excell us, the Engine  
 which they have all along made use  
 to keep us in Subjection; the Cloak for  
 all their Oppression — when I grow  
 impatient, and am a top o' the House  
 with my Tyrant, hear Reason Wife  
 crys the sawcy Malapert Swaggerer —  
 No, I'll hear no Reason for that trick —  
 out upon it — — — — — I sigh — — — — — Reason  
 Why we had as good continue as we  
 are, they have got the Whip hand of  
 us at Reason — — — — — they go first to  
 School, and there they learn a hundred  
 Tricks — — — — — then they march to the  
 Universities, and there they get their  
 Logick, their Syllogismes, and their Di-  
 lemmas, their Crotchets and their Quil-  
 lets, and beat us with our own Wea-  
 pons, Long Talk and Words — — — — —  
 But I Faith wee'll pull down their  
 Schools and their Universities for 'em —  
 Wee'll spoil their Reasoning with a Ven-  
 gance — — — — —

The Lady *Wrath* mov'd that every  
 Membress Husband (to begin with  
 them first for example sake) might be  
 sent for by Mrs. *Taradoodle* Serjeants at  
 Arms, and made to kneel at the Bar —  
 God's

God's life, quoth she, Mrs. Speaker, my  
*Magisterial Grievance* came in tocher  
 night, at three a Clock in the Morning,  
 with his forehead so well freighted, that  
 had he had but as much wit in his Brains  
 as he had juice of the Grape, all the Wile  
 men of Greece might have been Ignora-  
 muses to him ——— and where d' ye  
 think he had been? ——— No where  
 but gaming ——— so far from having  
 any Money in his Pocket, that he was  
 strip't from head to foot like a Cas'd Rab-  
 ber ——— and what d' ye think he would  
 have had after all this? ——— Nothing  
 but my Jewels ——— to have sent the  
 Helve after the Hatcher. No, I appeal  
 to this Honourable assembly whether  
 he ought not to be made kneel at the  
 Bar for this ——— and pray Mrs. Speak-  
 er do you be sure to rattle him soundly —  
 tis not the first time, I assure Ye.

While these things were thus trans-  
 acting near the Chair, there was a most  
 horrible Clamour at the further end of  
 the House, where two the Country Bur-  
 gesses were ready to lay violent hands  
 upon each others Coroner, about a dif-  
 ference that arose between 'em, which  
 had the best Receipt for the Making of  
 Almond Puddings. One cited the *Queen's*  
 Closet

210 *Let open'd the rother the leame*  
 211 *Mrs Cookery*  
 212 Ladies, quo' Mr Speaker these  
 213 low things fit the Men to box about  
 214 Mostly, we are now for higher Con-  
 215 sultations.

216 Well Mrs Speaker is true, crys the  
 217 one, but I hate to be contradicted  
 218 and so do I as much as you, quo' the  
 219 other — but you shall be contradicted  
 220 quo' the other, if I live and sit here —  
 221 Still quo' the other, speak such another  
 222 word and I'll throw my Fan in your  
 223 Face — another Hurly Burly hap-  
 224 pened in another part of the Houe, for  
 225 that one that sat upon the seat above  
 226 would needs set her dirty slides against  
 227 the Rump of her that sat just under her.  
 228 The one bid her keep her feet off, the  
 229 other cry'd she would put her feet there  
 230 the lowermost swore by the bones of her  
 231 Mother, she should not put her feet there  
 232 So that the discreeter sort fearing a dis-  
 233 turbance, cry'd out to the Bar, to the  
 234 Bar, but when they were commanded  
 235 to kneel, one cryed, that she was such  
 236 an Enemy to that humble posture of  
 237 kneeling, that she never kneel'd at her  
 238 Prayers. Another said she would be first  
 239 burnt for a Coiner. A third said, her  
 240 Husband

husband would once have had her kneel-  
ed and ask'd forgiveness, but she present-  
ly broke his Pace. A fourth cry'd it was  
dolatry, and that her Conscience would  
not let her.

The Lady *Lefty* told them they had  
broken the Orders of the House, ~~and~~  
Orders of a Tunn, cry'd one of the  
Delinquents, ~~and~~ Order me, no  
Orders ——— for I'll obey none of  
your Orders, by the help of God, nor I,  
nere obey'd any hitherto, and I wont  
begin now.

The Lady *Squeandish* urg'd, that the  
very Thieves and Cutpurse liv'd under  
Laws and Ordinances for Conyeniency  
ake, and it was but reasonable that they  
who were about to Rob their Husbands  
of their long usurpt Authority, should  
agree against the Common Enemy.

Thieves and Cutpurses Madam! cry'd  
the other, what's that to me what  
Thieves and Cutpurses do ——— I  
would have your Ladyship know ———  
am neither thief nor Cutpurse, but as  
good a Women as your self, and for  
ought I know bring as good a Porti-  
on to maintain me ——— upon that  
the Lady *Valuable* stept in, and told them  
that she highly commended the selves

of their Kibes in respect of their Husbands, but as the case now stands, you standing so stiffly upon your Parable is contrary to *Magna Charta*, as they call it, by which it was enacted that the lesser number should always submit to the Greater.

Madam Noise a great pretender to the Law, as one that had solicited a long cause in Chancery, against an Attorney of *Clements Inn*; urged the business more home, and offer'd to bring a hundred presidents to prove what Madam *Valable* had alledg'd. She also cited a Statute of the first of *Maria* the Empress, wherein it was ordained that tho' Woman might not kneel to Men, upon any terms whatsoever. Yet that one Woman should kneel to another, adding withall, that she had seen several Daughters kneel to their Mothers, and several Mothers ask their Grand-mothers blessing upon their knees; and that it was a Common thing in *France*, for the Women to kneel when they kissed the Queens hand.

But nothing would do, the Delinquents would no more buckle in the Hamms, nor cringe to the Chair than the Jews to *Titus's* Hogs; so that Madam

Noise

Wife mov'd that they might be expell'd  
the House for example sake.

But *Mrs Speaker*, unwilling to lose  
our such notable Membresses, propos'd  
*Medium*; that they should only shed  
tears in their Hankerchers by way  
of acknowledgment, and cunningly su-  
born'd a Messenger to bring the four  
Delinquents cydrugs at the same time,  
of their Husbands Deaths. Well know-  
ing that if that news would not move  
them, yet they would cry for Madneſs  
that they could not have their wills;  
as the first Project took, for they no  
more heard their Husbands were gone  
to *Pegg Trantums*, but they presently  
pull'd out their Muckenders, and dropt  
fifteen pearls a piece as naturally, poor  
souls, as Mands cover Marriages, to  
the great Satisfaction of the whole As-  
sembly, who presently voted them back  
to their Seats. Whither as they were  
going one of them, more regretting the  
loss of her loss than the rest, gave such  
a loud sigh backward, as mov'd the  
whole Assembly to pity, believing her  
cause was extraordinary; and ordered  
that the Verses upon the Parliament ſart  
should be re-printed with certain *Alter-  
ations and Amendments*; not deeming it  
fitting

sitting that the Memory of a Male Tail  
 should be more eterniz'd then a Fe-  
 male one. In the heat of these debates  
 the Committee for Elections made  
 report of several Vacancies; some by  
 death, others through the Imperiousness  
 of their Husbands, who upon discovery  
 had lock'd up their Wives, and would  
 not let them come to the assembly, and  
 desired the Opinion of the House about  
 supplying the Vacant Places.

The latter Reason of the Committee  
 presently put the House in an uproar  
 Madam Lorry cry'd out, it was a Breach  
 of Privilege of the Highest Nature, and  
 mov'd, that the offenders might be sen-  
 tenc'd by the Serjeants at Arms.

Presently came in one of the Sher-  
 Burgeses for High Wykes that had  
 made her Escape, and yaul'd out a Com-  
 plaint as loud as a Saints Bell, how her  
 Husband had lock'd her up in a great  
 Trunk, and fed her with nothing but  
 Chocolate and Cheesecakes for four days  
 together to keep her from stirring abroad.  
 And that she might have layn there  
 this time buried alive in a Dead Chest  
 where she heard nothing all day long  
 but the Continual Alarms of Death  
 Watches, had not her beloved Waiting  
 Ma



Maid and Cabinet Counsellor deliver'd her, in her Husbands Absence, by the help of a false Key, and made her Superstitious Tyrant believe, that the Devil wire-drawed her through the Key-hole. By and by in came another flaming and swearing Revenge, for that her Husband had kept her chained to the Bed-post with a long Chain, that gave her no more freedom then to rattle from the Bed to the Table, when he fell her with nothing but Carriers Pudding and brown Bread, pretending to make her good Condition'd, all which she had endur'd for seven long days together. And not only so, but that he had bound her up with an *Italian Padlock*, to secure his *Liberty* and *Property*, as he call'd it; that she had still continued under this heavy Oppression, had she not been very watchful of Opportunity, and one night when her Husband came home drunk as a Rat, pick'd his Pocket as he lay in the security of a sound sleep, of the Key of her House-lock, by which means she got her heels out of Bondage and made her Escape to a Neighbours House in her Smock, and there borrow'd the Cloaths she had on to make her personal Appearance according to Summons.

C

! But

But for the *Italian Padlock*, that after all the Art that she or her Neighbours could use, she could not rid her self of it, but was still forc'd to carry it about her, as a badge of Matrimonial Slavery and Tyranny not to be endur'd; for the truth of which, if they would not believe her, they might believe their own Eyes, she being ready to shew sufficient proof of what she had allcadg'd when the Honourable House should think fitting to require it.

Which Complaints so incens'd the whole Assembly, that they flew high at the poor Men, and came to several Resolves.

Resolv'd, that who ever should lock up his Wife in a Trunk or chest out of a Tyrannous design to keep or restrain her from gadding abroad at her own will and pleasure, shall be reputed a Capital Enemy to the Female Commonwealth.

Resolv'd, that whoever shall chain his Wife by the Legs or any other Member to the Bed-post, or any other place whereby she shall be restrained from using her own Liberty of going a Swarthopping, shall be likewise reputed a Capital Enemy of the Female Commonwealth.

Resolv'd,

Resolv'd, that an *Italian Padlock* is a most unspeakable Grievance to the Female Common-weal, and an insufferable breach of the Liberty and Property of the Subject.

Resolv'd, that whoever shall by force and violence make use of an *Italian Padlock*, to debar his Wife from the free Exercise of her Conscience, and the performance of such charitable duties, or otherwise, that she shall think herself oblig'd to, or to be convenient for her Health or Recreation, shall be reputed a Capital Enemy to the Female Common-weal, and as such shall be prosecuted to death.

Thereupon they order'd an Impeachment to be drawn up against the foremention'd Offenders for High Treason, the one for Chest-Emponding, the other for Chaining and padlocking up his Lawful Sovereign Wife, contrary to the known Laws of the Common-weal of *Amazonia*.

Then they took into consideration the First Request of the Committee, touching the replenishing of Vacancies; and being resolv'd into a Grand Committee of the whole House for that Purpose, Madam *Syneantise* first stood up  
and

and mov'd that no Virgins might be admitted into the Assembly. For, said she, many things may here happen to be debated, which it is not fitting for Virgins to hear; that they were met upon Affairs of great consequence which requir'd sober and mature heads, not raw and unexperienc'd Youth to determin. Nor was it proper that Young *Flebergebits*, that had not yet done playing with their joynted-Babies, should be Companions for their Seniours; she farther urg'd that thereby the Men might come to have a strong Parry in the House, for that it was natural to Virgins to hanker after Men and Matrimony and to listen to the first Temptations of Youthful Titillation; they think those Men that give them their Primitive Satisfactions to be Angels at first, till they know better and have such a high Opinion of all Men for their sakes, that we shall have all our Designs thwarted, our counsel betrayed in hopes to pleasure the Men from whom they expect retaliation of kindness. There is such a kissing and roying, such protesting and vowing, such Adoration and Submission before Virgins yield up their sort of Modesty

that they will never desire Men to be greater slaves or to be more in Subjection then they seem to be. And therefore should we discourse of subduing the whole race of Men before them, they would be sure to oppose us, as not desiring that men should be more their Vassals then they were.

To this Madam *Tomboy* reply'd, that Virgins were no such Fools as Madam *Squeamish* took them to be; They did not go to the Boarding Schools for nothing; for tho they learnt but very little of what they were sent thither to learn, yet either by discourse among themselves, or else by reading of *Aristotle's* Problemes, which they Dogscard more then their Psalters, and the learned Comments which the elder and more experienc'd made upon them they came to know as much at Thirteen as if they had been Mid-wives of twenty years standing. Nor do they want stories of the Inconstancy, Infidelity, Ingratitude, Treachery, falseness, and deceit of Men; nor fresh Examples of deluded Virgins stollen out of their School, and afterwards rejected, scorn'd, abus'd, misus'd, contemn'd and slighted by their once the fondest, kindest, most

protesting vowing, submissive Spaniel-like Lovers in the World. And these things almost with their milk, cause them to suck in an inbred hatred of the Male Sex; so that a Virgin that has but a barley Corn of discretion is as shie of a Man, as a Wheel-Dogg of a Cook-Maid. A man may as soon lay salt upon a Timoules tayl, as come near to touch 'em; They will rather trust to the satisfaction of three pil'd velvet, then have to do with that Tray-tor Man.

By my truly, cry'd the Lady *Nimble-Clack*, I'll tell ye Mrs. Speaker, I have been at one of these Boarding-Schools my self, and there we had a Woman to teach us *French*, Land—— what a pretty melting Language it is! But the Subject I met with melted me even into a gelly of Extasie; for this *French* Woman had a pretty little neat Book ( if I had it here I could kiss it ) call *Esehole de filler*. In this Book she would often read with great delight: which I observing, fed her with Cakes and sweetmeats ( for my Mother, Mrs. Speaker always allow'd me Mony in my Pocket ) and never let her alone, till I made her read it all over to me;  
But

But Laud— You cannot imagine  
 Mrs. Speaker, what strange Passions  
 it wrought in me! I minded my work  
 no more— no more— no  
 more, Mrs. Speaker what shall I say—  
 no more then a man that is going up  
 the Ladder to be hang'd mends a new  
 suit of Cloaths— Laud—  
 there were such Expressions in it as  
 made my blood daunce new Bore, and  
 the Trickett's in every vein—  
 Then she told me of another Book,  
 call'd *Rapinamenti D' Aretino*: but that  
 she said was in *Italian* and she did not  
 understand it. But I got another that  
 did, and made her read it all over to  
 me, and paid her weekly till she had  
 done; then she told me of another  
 Book, call'd *Aloyha figra*, which was  
 in Latin, and beyond her Sphere too.  
 Thereupon I enquir'd after a Woman  
 that understood Latin, and mony that  
 finds out all things, soon found me an  
 Interpreter, and I can assure ye Mrs  
 Speaker, that it is not for nothing, that  
 Latin is call'd the *Language of the W'bores*.  
 For certainly never did any Book in  
 this World give such an absolute and  
 perfect accompt of *Cupids Tackicks* as that  
 Book: 'tis a Book so ravishing— I

lost my Virginity with only hearing it read——— And I am perswaded that were it translated there would not be a Virgin in the Town, by that time a Girl had read her Primer out—— which would certainly increase our contempt and hatred of Men, when we could have our Business done by hearing only, without being beholding to the sence of feeling. However by this means and cost I got that knowledge by fourteen, that had this Noble Assembly been then Summon'd, I should have tak'n it very ill to have been left out.

But now I am to ask the Lady's that spoke last what sort of Virgins they mean? Whither Virgins so indeed, or Virgins so reputed? If Virgins so indeed, then I confess it were a madness to admit into such an Assembly as this, and up upon Affairs of so great Importance, Girles of Ten or Eleven years of Age, from whose discretion we can expect nothing of Counsell or Management: But if they be Virgins so reputed, there can be none fitter for our turn; for they have certainly been deluded by Men, and must therefore of necessity be their Mortal Enemys. Secondly,



'tis a great sign that they are persons of Conduct and knowledge, that they can so well conceal their Losses, and put a cheat upon the World without being discovered. We shall wont dissembling Females to deal with Male Hypocrites, and therefore my humble motion is that all reputed Virgins after years of discretion may be admitted.

Here the Lady *Squeamish* started a new Hair, demanding what should be done with Virgins through necessity, that is to say, such as had Marry'd Eunuchs for their Husbands?

How said the Lady *Nimble Clack*, I conceive Mrs. *Speaker*, this question is easily answered; for if they have marry'd Eunuchs and continu'd Virgins, without seeking to revenge the Injury done them, they are Fools indeed, and consequently not fit to have any Room in this Place. And yet one would think there are none that should shew less mercy to Men, then they that have been so vilanously abus'd by them; I am perswaded, if there be one that will patiently suffer under such a disgrace, there can be but one in the World at a time, and that's the Phoenix the Poets have so much talk'd of, for so many

years; and therefore if such a one do chance to come in among Us, we'll nere turn her out for the Rarities sake.

By and by there was one stood up, whose name could never yet be known, and mov'd, t. at Women who had been thrice marry'd might not be admitted.

How quod the Lady *Lustfull*, looking upon her with great disdain! What self-denying Philosophers have we got here? I have turn'd off two already, and the third is pitching over the Perch. Pray Madam, give me leave to be shod round; why should the having of five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten one after another, hinder a Woman from being a Member of this House? By my troth, I am for the *French Proverb* reverse. *The Husband of her whom God Loves soon Dyes.* And I my Conscience she's the best Commons-wealth Woman that can hold out to send most to Old Nick; that's our Complaint, the Worlds over stock'd with 'em. And therefore the Old Amazon's wrung off the neck, of all their Mate Squabbs, but only a few of the Choicest which they kept for Breed and Recreation. Nay, I know no reason why a Woman that  
kicks

kicks off three or four Husbands, or forty or fifty, one after another into the other World, ought not to be rewarded at so much a head as the *Welch* were for killing of Wolves; especially seeing the K. of *Spain* is so liberal to those that get Male Children. For we must act by *Maximes* contrary to those of Men Monarchs, what they build we must destroy; and therefore let no Woman be put out of this Assembly for good Service.

This debate being over the House adjourn'd till to morrow at nine of the Clock.

As the Lower House was thus all in a Hurley Burley, so was the Upper not without some share of Muriny and disturbance.

For upon the passing of a certain Order, the Lady *Fisgigg* Baroness of *Giddy-Hall* being desir'd to give her vote, and demanding in what form she was to do it, the Countess of *Mount Orgueil*, told her, by saying *content or not content*. How, quoth the Lady *Fisgigg*, I say I am content! Ye shall as soon draw my Tongue and all my Teeth as any such word out of my Mouth. No, I'll never acknowledge my self to be content in this World,

World, as long as I live; had I all the pleasures the Earth could afford, I would never be such a Fool to say I was *content*. A Woman and content can never set their Horſes together, it was ſaid of *Meſſalina*, the Great Empreſſes perſections, that ſhe was never content, a Woman may be cloy'd, ſatiated and glutted for a Time, but never *Contented*.

The Dutcheſs of *Decay'd Vertue* endeavour'd to convince her, that it was only a word of courſe to ſhew her diſlike or Approbation of what was propounded; don't tell me, quo' the Lady *Fiſgigg*, i'll agree or diſagree as I pleaſe, but i'll be contented with nothing, I ſit here i' this Houſe with a Soul above that of a Commoner: and I muſt tell ye, *To be content*, is for a Woman to confine and limit her Deſires, which, i'll never controul by ſaying I am *contented*; what a God's name, is there no other word in the World for a Woman to ſignifie her approbation of a thing but to ſay ſhe is *Content*? The Dutcheſs of *Babylon* alledg'd that it was the Form which the Men had us'd time out of mind, and very properly too, quo' the Lady *Fiſgigg*, *Content* and *Cuck*.

Cuckoldry go commonly together.  
 Thereupon many debates arole what  
 Alteration to make of the word con-  
 cept. The Countess of Pennsylvania  
 urg'd, that they were not to alter Old  
 Customs for one Lady's humour; but  
 the Dutches of *Female Charms* inter-  
 ceeded, and said, that Niceties were  
 not to be stood upon, where the Alte-  
 ration was easie, and therefore mov'd  
 that to shew their consent, they should all  
 clap their hands, and the Dissenters  
 should cry *bist*—as they did at the Play-  
 Houses.——But the Lady *Fistigg*  
 utterly rejected that Motion, saying,  
 that the Mode of the Play-Houses ill  
 became the Grandure of such a Solemn  
 Assembly,——thereupon the Countess  
 of *Ryle-the-Roast* stood up and swore  
 there could be nothing better to shew  
 their agreement, then to cry three times  
 Ay, Ay, Ay, and to shew their dis-  
 like, to make a wrie face and cry *Shawaw*,  
 and then to tell the Shawaws, and the  
 Ay, Ay, Ayes. So that if the Sha-  
 waws were more than the Ay, Ays then  
 to let the Shawaws carry it; and if the  
 Ay, Ay's out-did the Shawaws, let the  
 Ay, Ay's carry it, which after a great  
 Sputter and bustle was carry'd by 3 voices.  
 While

While they were in the Midst of these-Contentions, a Message came to the Upper House, to signify that the Commons desir'd to have a *Mess of Chat* with their Ladyships.

For you must know that when the word *Conference* was mentioned in the Lower House, there was great distast tak'n at it by the Lady *Nimble-Clack*, with your good Leave, Mrs. Speaker, quo' she, I do not understand the meaning of this word *Conference*; these men by going to School, and learning their Latin Tongue, have so confounded us with their Chap-screwing Expressions, that it is high time for Us now to reduce our Language to its primitive plainness.

Now I know what it meant by it, when we say come Neighbours, let us meet together such a time and have a *Dish of Chat* together, so 'tis another Custom among Us, when we design to go to the House of Office together, as we seldom go single, if we can get Company, we say, come let us go to such a place, and have a *Dish of Chat*; and thus when we come from making a Visit, we do not say, we have been at a *Conference*; Or when we have been

at

at a Christning, or an Upsitting, where we discourse of sundry Things, and Passages, we do not say we have been at a *Conference*; God bless us, and therefore my humble Motion is, that the words in the Message may be, that we desire a *Dish of Chat* with their Ladyships.

The Lady *Voluble* approv'd of this Motion exceedingly: for, said she, I know no more how to manage a *Conference*, then the Pope of *Rome*; but I can hold a *Chat* from New-years Day to New-years Day, and so to New-years Day again.

This being agreed, the next thing mov'd was, Who, and how many should go to this *Dish of Chat*. How, quoth Madam *Tomboy*, Who and How Many! Is it come to that? By this Light I'll go for one, who ever stays behind. And I, cryes another; and I, cryes a third; and I, cryes a fourth; and I, and I, and I, and I, and I, and I; which that there was such a Terrible Dinn of *and Ps*, that the noise of Fifteen steeple's with twelve Bells a peice was but meer Whispering to it; which was no sooner ceas'd, but presently followed such a horrid Peal and confused Cry.

Cry of All— All— All— All—— that the very sides of the wall were forc'd to open to give it vent. For while every one fear'd to be left behind, all tore their Throats with such a unanimous confusion, that the Sun scarce knew whether he should go forward or Backward.

And now they were all got Higgledy Piggledy together, Peereless and Commoners without Distinction one among another; at what time, Madam *Voluble* addressing her self to the Lady Speaker.

Madam, quoth she, It is not unknown to your self and the Rest of these Renowned Lady's, how that both your selves and we, and all the Female Common-weal have for many Ages even from the time of *Lamech*, labour'd and groan'd under the grievous weight of Male Tyranny and Oppression, from whence having now, as we suppose by a just Reckoning gone out our full time, we may at length expect to be deliver'd; we have at length with many shrieks and lamentations brought forth our Greivances, foul and Mishapen Births (thank the Fathers of them,) and now we are here come to lay our

Com



Conceptions before ye, hoping that you  
the Nursing Mothers of *Amazons* will  
take care of their Relief. Not that  
we intend to leave them at your doors;  
for we are resolv'd to maintain them  
to be such as they are, the Legimate  
and true born Issue of our Sorrows, but  
in hopes that you will be so kind as to  
bear part of the Charge in putting  
them forth to the best Advantage:  
which is one end of our present Meet-  
ing.

Then the Dutches of *Bleeding Hearts*,  
*Ladies, Maidams, and Mistresses.*

I have had strange wambling Piny  
Gizzard, and it has pierc'd to my very  
Bowels, when I have lain stretched  
forth under the Pressure of Male-infur-  
rection, to consider, that the more no-  
ble Creatures Women should thus be  
forc'd to submit, while the more Igno-  
ble Creatures men Act over Us as  
they do. Surely nature was asleep, or  
drench'd in Noah's bowls, when she  
Order'd the Course of things in this  
manner; But methoughts, I could  
away with these sufferings we I enough:  
but when we had endur'd all this to sa-  
tisfie their fierie Heat, and hot Humors,  
to be frown'd upon, to be curb'd and  
snub'd,

snubb'd, to be revil'd, contemn'd, to be  
 proach'd and trump't, to be bid  
 this, to be commanded to do that, with  
 an *Or I'll make ye Hush*; to assume  
 themselves the Title of *Lords of the Creation*,  
 to be forc'd to petition to 'em for  
 our wants, and to have these our peti-  
 tions more frequently deny'd than  
 granted, these are the hard Morrels of  
 steel, that a Woman had need of an  
 Ostricher Stomach to digest.

Therefore it is, may it please your  
 grace reply'd the Lady Valuable, (for  
 there is not a word which you have  
 spoken that we are not all most deeply  
 sensible of) that we are now met to  
 throw off the insupportable Yoak of  
 these Usurpers, and to cut the Gordian  
 Knot of Male Dominion.

Then Madam Nimble-Clack, I can-  
 not tell, but I am sure quod she, we  
 have little reason to be so serv'd; for  
 by the Confession of men themselves  
 we are their Equals. And if they con-  
 fess us to be their Equals, you may be  
 certain there's more in it then we are  
 at present aware of; they look upon  
 Women as a Company of easie Souls,  
 soon contented, and therefore allow us  
 to be their Equals; to keep us from pry-  
 ing

ing Farther into the knowledge of that  
 superiority, which they are too guilty  
 sensible to be our due, therefore I say  
 again, there must be something in this  
 Condescension of theirs; the Cat did  
 not winck for nothing: for which rea-  
 son I humbly move that the Ancient  
 Records may be searched in the Reigns  
 of *Penthesilea, Semiramis, Boodicea, &c.*  
 to the end we may no longer be kept  
 in the Dark, but may be able to assert  
 our Right by way of claim. There's  
 nothing like legal claim to sovereignty;  
 where are no Plots can prevail against  
 it crumbles all Oppositions into  
 Chickens meat. As it happen'd of late  
 days in the Claims between *Q. Mary*  
 and *Jane Seymour*; for I must tell ye  
 ladies, when I'm at home, I don't  
 spend my time in stitching of Point  
 lace, but in reading of Histories.

At the word History, Mrs. Soake Pot,  
 one of the Shce Burgesses for *Sambich*,  
 being wak'd out of a sweet Nap. cry'd  
 aloud from the farther end of the Room,  
 my Lady Speaker, I never knew Histo-  
 ry without Ale in my Life; In our Town  
 Ale and History go always together:  
 we never tell a *Canterbury* story, but  
 we drink; we never talk of this body.  
 or

or that body, of this Neighbour or  
 rother Neighbour; in short, we never  
 spend our verdicts upon any Man or  
 Woman but we drink; and Ale is our  
 Liquor still, some indeed will call for  
 Ale and Beer, but that's rare. When  
 I go to Church, I always Carry a  
 Dram of the Bottle with me; Drowning  
 is next to hanging, for it endangers  
 choaking; therefore I always take care  
 of being adry; but this is the Drying  
 Meeting that ever I was at; my Lib  
 not one drop of Ale among five hun  
 dred People. Heavens blest me! may  
 the Hoops of all my Barrels fly off  
 if ever I saw the like before. If this be  
 your Reformation of Government  
 Heaven deliver me from Reformati  
 on, — Pray my Lady Speaker hear  
 my Motion, my Motion is, that we  
 may all joyne our two-pence apiece and  
 send for some Ale; Ple assure you can  
 not imagine how well Ale and History  
 tast together.

Mrs Soake Pot, quoth the Countess of  
*Mount Orgueil*, you seem to be a good  
 well-meaning Gentlewoman; but  
 your Motion cannot be heard: for it is  
 not for the Sovereign assembly of the  
 Female Commonwealth; to sit like a  
 Com

Company of Shoemakers or Tinkers,  
 if you are adry, with draw into the  
 Courts of Requests: there you'll find tip-  
 pling houses enough furnish'd with all  
 sorts of Liquor; and perhaps you may  
 find your own belov'd *Sambich* Ale  
 among the Rest. A thousand thanks,  
 quo' Mrs. Soake Pot, to your Ladyship,  
 my Lady Speaker, for these kind di-  
 rections of yours, and now hang me  
 like a Dog if I don't try the Experiment  
 presently, and if I meet with any of  
 your own Town-Bub ———— I'll drink  
 your Ladyships good Health for your  
 good Counsel.

Mrs. Soake Pot being thus march'd  
 off to make her discoveries, Madam  
*Rantipol* stood up and thus proceeded.  
 By all the Lucky Chances at In and In,  
 quo' she, surely all our Fore-Mothers  
 slept in Boxes like Dormice; how easie  
 had it been for 'em to have ranvers'd  
 the Government of the World ere this  
 there are those Nicks of time, when  
 Men may be brought to swear any  
 thing, when they think there is no  
 greater Felicity in this or the World to  
 come, then what they enjoy at the  
 very present; if they revolt from their  
 words, then there are those other Nicks  
 of

of time, when the Woman may catch 'em as *Moss* caught his Mare, and fairly *Holopernes* 'em to the Devil. The Prince was as good as his word, when he had promis'd the Lady her Husbands life in the *Nick of time*, to the Warrant for his Execution; and being ask'd the Reason by his Counsellors, recited that Golden Sentence—

*Centre levis Effendu non est pas ancien Remede.* Could we but bring the Women to observe that *Nick*, what a world of business might we dispatch in one Night. But a pox upon Us, for a Company of Sots; we dream, while our Husbands sleep, she that stands off, and crys, *not a bit an't were to save your life*, and this at the very *Nick*, when you may light a hundred Cardmatches at his Eyes, may make a man give hand and seal and foot and all to the Perdition of his Patrimony; were he sure of a Mansion in *Paradise*, at that *Nick* you might force him to resign it. I wonder that these empy fellows they call Men, should insist so much upon their Birth-right, which one of the chiefest in Renown among 'em, thought not worth a Mess of Porridge, and yet this same six penn'orth of Birth-right count-

ing

ing the Porridge to be made of Balls  
and Cocks Corners; is the main Stru-  
cture upon which they build their Su-  
periority over us. Let us down with it,  
say Lady Speaker, down with it to the  
ground; and level it as smooth as a  
bowling Alley.

Bravely spok'n, if we could but as  
bravely do, quo' the Lady Noise, y' are  
the right an't Madam Rantipol, Ple-  
asing ye Presidents for it, undeniable,  
uncontrivable Presidents, there was  
with the President of the Daughters of  
the *Danau*. I have read the story  
somewhere, but I can't tell very well  
where, because I have forgot, and I  
have forgot because I don't remember,  
believe it is in a Ballad; for I have  
been a great Reader of Ballads, and  
Ballads afford a great number of excel-  
lent Presidents in all sorts of your Book  
learning. In short, this same *Danau*  
had fifty Daughters, and one of the  
Kings of *Agypt* having fifty Sons, would  
needs match his fifty Sons with these  
fifty Daughters; I know not how it  
came to pass nor how they fell out, but  
on the Wedding Day at the Wed-  
ding Supper every one of the Marry'd  
Husbands feloniously and of his malice  
fore-

forethought, threw a Trencher at the  
Wives Heads; this pass'd on, and  
was reconcil'd again, every one seem'd  
well satisfi'd, and so upon the Wedding  
Night every Spoule went to Bed with  
her own Bride. But I saith by the  
next Morning the Women had chang'd  
their Husbands money for 'em with  
vengeance; that is to say, every Bride  
bravely and resolutely cut her Husband  
Wezands with a *Nemine Contradicente*  
just in the *Nick of time*; that is to say  
when tir'd with fighting *Cupid's* Barrels  
they lay like so many Logs without  
sence or Motion. The Young Gentle  
women thought 'twas High time to rid  
themselves of such Proud Princes  
that began to play their pranks so ea-  
sily.

Not must we forget our own For-  
Mothers, that kill'd every one her Le-  
dain, a haughty, imperious sort of  
Male-Tyrants, that made the poor  
Women eat Pompions and Rusty Be-  
con, while they fed upon Caponsboyls  
in *Frontinac*.

Neither are Women now adayes such  
Milk-sops as they take us to be, I have  
seen a Poulterer and his Wife fight  
it out in the Open Street, and the  
Po



Poulterers Wife has got the Day. There was a *Tork-shire* Knight that was forc'd to gagge his Wife, and pull out three of her Teeth before he could make her condescend to let him have his own Coach to carry him to the next Market Town. And whereas the Lady that spoke last, said, that Men claim their Tyranny by Birth-right, I know of no such Birth-right they have; let 'em bring a President for it. You'l say, they bring Presidents that some men have beaten their Wives, and wee'l bring 'em ten Presidents for one that their Wives have beaten them again. The Devil that gelt the Baker of *Mansfeild* himself, was afraid of his Wife.

If ye go to that, quo' the Lady *Polybinne*, I'll undertake to prove that Women have more right to Govern the State then Men. For first, we are handsomer then men, and men themselves allow, that nothing gains so much upow the People as the Comeliness of the Governours Person, so that our Right comes by nature: theirs by Usurpation. And therefore notwithstanding this usurpation, their own Consciences tell them, that it is our due for this reason it was that the greatest and

D

most

most famous of their Conquerours were all subdu'd in the height of their Triumphs by Women; *Alexander* and *Scipio*, *Cesar* and *Mark Anthony* loar'd and cring'd before their Mistresses like so many Setting Dogs: they acted with the Spirits of their Mistresses, and won all their Victories with their Mistresses Souls; by which it is plain that nature gave Us the Propriety, however we came to be such Kidlings to lose it. Men are Brutish, rash and heady; Women smooth and temperate, which render them much more fit for Government. Women have their tears at Command; which proves them to be the greatest dissemblers in the World, and it is a Maxim, that they who cannot tell how to dissemble, can never tell how to Govern; it follows then that they who can best dissemble are most fit to rule.

Madam, quo' the Lady *Nimble Glack*, you have talk'd out your outice, now let me talk out mine.

No by my Faith shan't ye, reply'd the Lady *Polybinne*; I came here to talk, and I'll talk out my talk as well as the best of Ye.

Laud,

Laud, quo' Madam Nimble Clack,  
 how I long to talk, and this scurvy  
 Women won't let me—  
 Lady Speaker forsooth—Have a  
 little Patience Madam—Patience  
 will do no good, Madam 'tis just  
 at my Tongues End, 'tis like Bottle  
 Ale, 'twill fly out in spite of my  
 Teeth—Put a crust of Bread  
 in your mouth Madam, 'twill allay the  
 fury of the Froth—Put a  
 T—d in my mouth, shan't I—  
 I protest and vow before all this Assem-  
 bly if ye won't let me talk, I'll Mis-  
 carry; and so saying, the Vehemency  
 of her Passion overcame her Vital Spi-  
 rits in such a manner, that she sank  
 down in a Swoon. Which put the  
 whole House into such a fit of Gab-  
 bling, as would have silenced all the  
 Hammers of a Paper-Mill.

It was in vain to think of *Assa Feti-*  
*da*, being so far off from any great  
 Town, therefore they unrip'd a Bolster,  
 and let a whole Bushel of Feathers, a  
 Smoaking under the Ladies Noile,  
 which created another disorder, of far  
 greater Consequence; for the Smoak  
 of the Feathers caus'd such a filthy stink  
 from one end of the Room to the other,

that some fell a coughing, some fell a sneezing, but all fell a Trumping about with such a general concurrence, as if they had resolv'd since they could not make use of their Tongues, to carry on the work of the Day with their Tayles; there was Answer and Reply, Rejoynder and Surrejoynder, Rump—Trump, Bump——Thump with such a *Continuando*, as if Destiny had done it on purpose to try the strength of their Lower Bellows as well as their upper Lungs. So that the Lady Speaker finding there was no more good to be done that day, was forc'd to adjourn the House till the next Morning.

Being re-assembled the next Morning, the Lady *Polyhimne* continu'd her discourse; for she had clearly got the day of the Lady *Nurple Glack*, who was forc'd to keep her Chamber all the next day to recover her lost Spirits, and to have her Nostrills cleans'd, which were grown so full of soot with the smoke of the Feathers, that they were constrain'd to hang a wet sheet before her Face, and shoot off a Musket right against the tip of her Nose; so that the Lady *Polyhimne* being at liberty thus proceeded.

In the next place, quo' she; none can be thought to have a greater affection for their Country then Women, how many example's have we of Women that have cut off their hair to make Ropes for Engins, and strings for Bows. Who have been more liberal then they without the constraint of taxes and assessments, to throw their Rings and Jewels into the Publick treasures to defray the charges of an Exhausted Exchequer? Who redeemed her Country from the slavery of a Triumphant Victor but *Joan of Arque*, so that 'tis they and not the Universities that are Properly to be call'd the Nursing mothers of the People; I blest my self to consider, were our Noble Sex restor'd to that Right which nature has bestow'd upon it, what quiet and serenity the Common-weal would enjoy, there would be no Room for Factions and Underminings, but all things would flow into Liberty and pleasure; Instead of raking every Corner of the land for Armies, there would be nothing but preparing for Masques, and Amorous Appointments, Men should then follow their Handy Crafts.—

Among which, cry'd Mrs. Soak Pot, interrupting her, I could heartily wish, there were more of one Trade, I mean, that of the *Flea-Chainers*, methinks 'tis such a proper sight to see a Man spending his time in chaining of Fleas, that I could wish the whole Sex were so Employ'd. I assure ye, if we get the Government into our hands 'tis the first thing I shall put 'em upon; for by my Soul, My Lady Speaker, I would willingly that all the Fleas i' the Land were chain'd, they do so plague me at night,

————— 'Tis thought she would have run on with the History of Flea's, but that my Lady Speaker assur'd her that care should be taken of that affair in due time, thereupon she sat down and the Lady *Polykinne* proceeded. —

Il'ay, quo' she, that then Men should follow their handy crafts, as we should set them at work, the Ox might plow, and the blind Mil-horse turn about the Wheel in security, while all their sweat and labours should but serve for the use and splendor of our Courts, and Habitations.

And then for flights and cunning tricks requisite for those that govern a state, where does the Devil reside but

among

among our Sex, for what by our Importunities, glances, traines, Slightes, Ambushes, Artificies and little Infidelities it is impossible for any Mortal to escape Us; we are so giv'n to deceive, it is impossible to deceive Us. But some may object, that we are *Inconstant*, the fitter then are we for all occasions of business, they that can turn and vere about according as the wind serves, can never ship-wrack; whereas obstinate Men frequently split themselves and their Posterity by being too opiniater'd and fix'd to one Course.

Marry Gap———— cry'd *Madam Sensual*, what fools are they say Women are inconstant? I appeal to the whole Assembly, My Lady Speaker, whither it be not a confounded lye of the Male Sex, an Aspersion, Madam, a meer Aspersion, for let me ask ye a few Questions, my Lady Speaker. Do not the Women scold in these our daies as they did formerly? Do they not sit in the Winter time toasting their *Fiddle Dedees* before the fire, as they did formerly? Do they not Sip and Weep at Burials as they did formerly? Do they not Cuckold their Husbands, as they did formerly? Do they not exhaust

and tire their Gentlewoman Ushers, as they did formerly? Do they not love Rambling and Coachies, Exchanges and Spring Gardens as they did formerly? Do they not love to amble between the sheets as much as ere they did? Nay to be short, are they more Inconstant then ere they were? Constant even in Inconstancy; And who then can say that Women are Inconstant?

Beshrew your heart, quo' the Lady *Polyhimne*, for taking the words out of my Mouth, for this is no more then I intended to have spoke; truly my *Lady Speaker*, quo' the Lady *Sensual*, I was een ready to *run over*, and could not hold; and I must needs say, quo' the Lady *Polyhimne*, you *ran over* very much to the purpose; and truly I am very glad you did so, for this very Excuse, my Lady Speaker, of the Gentlewoman that spake last, puts me in mind of another great Objection against Us, that we are *Talkative*.

This is just according to the Proverb, *The Kettle calls the Porridge Pot Black-Arse*; I would fain know which is most Talkative, the Female or the Male Sex? The Men forsooth can sit talking and prating in a Tavern an hour



hour, nay two or three hours together, and no body must contradict 'em; Nay they are so vain-gloriously conceited of their Prattle Prattle as to trouble the World with it in Print; we talk 'tis true, and perhaps sometimes as they do little to the Purpose, but we never Print to no Purpose; a free talkative Ruler shews his Familiarity to the People, while a reserv'd and sparing utterer of Quarter Sentences, one that would have the People know his meaning by his Gaping, leaves the People in suspence, and makes liberty either dangerous, or flattery misconster it.

To conclude as Women bring forth Children, and multiply the World, and when they have brought them forth, are most tender and careful to bring them up; so it is most fitting, since they have all these Pre-eminencies and Indulgencies of Nature, that they should have the Government of the World which they have multiply'd and stor'd with the Fruit of their own Wombs. And I must tell ye, My Lady *Speaker*, by my consent, would all the Women agree to't, we would not bring one Child into the World more, but suffer all the race of Mankind to perish, that

Kings might be without Subjects, Commonwealths without Inhabitants, unless they would submit to let us have our wills, and suffer Us to Govern 'em that brought 'em into the World; which if we had not done, they had never been; and then what would become of all the Pomp and Tyranny which they so unreasonably usurp?

Quo' Madam *Rash*, I like this Project very well, and humbly move it may be taken into farther consideration. In the mean time my Lady *Speaker*, give me leave to add one reason more to prove, that the Government of the World belongs to the Female Sex; which I look upon to be the greatest, in regard it is the General Women's Reason, and so I say that Women ought to Govern the World rather than Men; *because they ought*. And this is a Reason which no Man yet from the Lord to the Peasant ever durst contradict, thus when my Husband asks me the Reason, why I will do such or such a thing, I answer, *because I will*; at which his mouth is presently bung'd up, he dares not mutter a word more; then again, if you ask me How I prove such a thing to be true? say I, *Because*  
it

*it is*; if you demand, why I will have it done so, I answer presently without studying like your Hum drum Porers upon Books, *Because I will*: tell me any argument among Men without all their chopping of Logick, was ever so universally prevalent, and therefore should the Men ask Us why we should have the Government of the World rather then they, the reasons at hand, *Because we will*.

This convincing Reason split the Hair, and it was resolv'd upon the Question, that let any one bring a thousand Reasons after this, there should not one be receiv'd.

Thereupon the Lady *Polybinne* forbore to urge any more Reasons, and was going to proceed to Examples. Quo' she, my Lady *Speaker*, I shall now make bold to offer some Examples of Women that have been more famous for their Government then ever Men were——she had no sooner mention'd the Word *Examples*, but the Lady *Nimble Clack*, whose tongue was then running like the *Flye* of *Jack*, flung immediatly into the Throng——bear leave Ladies, quo' she, let me come——Hold, my Lady *Speaker*,  
Hold—

Hold ——— I'me just coming as fast  
as I can ——— Hold Mrs. Speaker—  
Pray hold ——— Ladies pray give  
Room ——— stand aside pray La-  
dies.

To omit Heathen storv, quo' the  
Lady *Polyhimne*, *Deborah* did the busi-  
ness, *Barack* was but the Instrument

With that the Lady *Nimble-clack*, start  
mad to hear the t'other Lady going  
on ——— Hold, I tell ye ———  
Hold ——— still as she prest on, hunch-  
ing, punching, jostling, thrusting, pu-  
shing, and ever and anon squaling  
out ——— Hold I say ——— Hold

a little Ladies, pray make way ———  
Pray give way ——— Never did zealous  
Sister prest so eagerly to recover her  
folding stool i' the Clarks Pew at a  
Meeting House, as she shoulder'd it a  
long till she got nere to the Lady Speak-  
ers Seat: when she came there, all be-  
rumpl'd and Towz'd, as she had been  
skirmishing with boystrous Iniquity,  
sweating, panting, she stood almost  
breathless a good while; at length en-  
deavouring to speak, she found her self  
dissastrously disappointed. ——— For  
she had made her self so hoarse with  
screaming that she was constrain'd to  
have

have course to her *Manus Christi* Lozenge Box.

Now while she was thus smoothing her *Uvula*, and settling the Disorders of her *Aspera Arteria*, the interrupted Lady, whither out of Malice or otherwise, let the charitable determin, fell a Galloping on with the Praises of *Deborah* at such a rate, that the Lady *Nimble Clack* not able any longer to endure it, was in such hast to clear her mouth of her Lozenges, that she spit one of her musk-Pellets full i<sup>n</sup> the Lady *Speakers* Face.

The Countess of *Mount Orguile* presently began to colour, and cry'd out *Scandalum Magnatum*. But being as prudent as she was wise, and as wise as she was prudent, the sooner re-collected her self, and took it for satisfaction, sufficient that the *Offender* lent her Orange-Flower'd Hand-kerchief to wipe her nose, who having now recover'd her lungs, and dismounted her friend the Lady *Polyhimne*, my Lady Speaker, quo' she, I would have you and all these Ladies to know, that I have heard as much, read as much, and talk'd as much as ever the Lady *Polyhimne* did in her Life, so that when I heard her talk of old  
stories

stories of things that were done I don't know when, by *Deborah* and *Barack* I don't know how I could not forbear; knowing I had a story of a far fresher Date: a Novelty Madam, a perfect Novelty. Sliddikins, what have we to do with *Deborah* and *Barack*, 'tis Novelty that is most pleasing to Women; for \*my part had we had the Government of the World till now, I should have been then for translating it to the Men, as I am now for transferring it to the Women, because they never had it before, and it would be a Novelty; now Madam, I'll tell ye a Novelty story to prove that Women are better able to Govern then men.

The *Great Mogul*, don't be frighted Ladies when I talk of the *Great Mogul*; I confess my Nurse us'd to fright me formerly, and tell me the *Great Mogul* was coming; but now I fear the *Great Mogul* no more, Heav'n's be prais'd for it, then I do my little Page *Ship-string*, I say, this *Great Mogul*, now you'll say, where does this *Great Mogul* live ( for I have found it by woful experience that 'tis better for a Woman to interrupt her self then to be interrupted by others) this great *Mogul* lives, where  
your

your Pepper grows—— stay——  
 do—— not where your Pepper  
 grows; that grows now I think out  
 in another place; but where your Di-  
 amonds grow upon little Diamond-  
 Trees as big as Cowslips. When these  
 Diamonds are ripe, which is once in  
 seven years, they fall of themselves to  
 the Ground, and then the People come  
 and pick 'em up, and sow the Diamond  
 seed again. I have a Kin-sman that has  
 seen of these Diamond-Trees; I ask'd  
 him why he did not put a handful in  
 his Pocket; but he told me no man  
 might come near these Diamond-Trees  
 to handle them, because they are guar-  
 ded by Elephants. He told me farther,  
 that these Diamond-Trees do glitter in  
 a star-light night, that you may read  
 a Dr. of Physicks Bill by the light  
 which they cast; In the same place are  
 made our fine painted Calico's, I have  
 several smocks of the Calico which was  
 made where the Great *Mogul* lives.  
 The first time I put on one of my fin-  
 est painted Calico Smocks, methought  
 I lookt like one of the Ancient *Pitt-  
 Women* mention'd in our *English Hi-  
 story*; ask but any of the *East-India*  
*Company* and they'll tell ye where the  
 Great

Great *Mogul* lives. Now this Great *Mogul* had a Mistress, that had got such a hank over him, that she could make him stand with his left finger in his taylor, and his right Thumb in his mouth for a week together; one time above the rest, this Great *Mogul's* Mistress commanded him to let her have the full and absolute Rule and Government of the whole Empire, for four and twenty Hours, and he to be Jack hold my staff all the while, stript of all his power like an Eel of her Skin. The Emperor glad of the opportunity, leapt for joy when he found it lay in his power to oblige her; for he thought it but a small matter to let her have so short a command of his Empire, that had so long domineer'd over his heart; thereupon the Day was prefix'd, the time came and the Lady began her four and twenty hours Raign. Now you'll say, what did she do in this four and twenty hours time? Nay I must ask you, what did she not do? She turn'd out all the Emperors evil Ministers, put wise and Able in their Places, she cut off all her Enemies, she built five hundred Almshouses in several parts of the Empire for the Relief of the poor; for she had



got all the Materials ready before, so that the Workmen who were like the sand of the Sea, had nothing to do but to clap 'em together, and when she had done this, and a thousand times more, she pass'd a Deed of Gifts by her own Impertial Authority from the Emperor to her self, and the heirs of her Body, which she commanded the Emperor to sign, and then pass'd it under her own great Seal, as irrevocable as any Law of the *Meads* and *Persians*; and the story tells ye farther that she did more good in that four and twenty hours then in all the Raigns of ten *Moguls* before.

To tell ye truth, quo' the Lady *Voluble*, these men are a Parcel of meer Animals with two legs; they strut upon the Earth without sence or Reason; it is impossible to know where to have 'em: they make Laws to day, and unmake them to Morrow. They hang a Man under one sort of Government, for what he shall be rewarded in another. Nay that is lawful in *France* which is not lawful in *Spain*, and that is lawful in *Spain* which is Vilany in *France*. They are always plotting and contriving, and never well but when they're undoing

undoing one another; so that I have often admir'd that the World has not come to an end long ere this, and therefore my humble motion is that we may come to a General Result in this grand affair.

Thereupon it was resolv'd, *Nemine Contradicente*, that the men were no longer fit to Govern, and that the Government of all the states of the Habitable Earth be deliver'd up into the hands of the Femal Sex.

Resolv'd, that a General Association be enter'd into by the Women against the Men, and that Embassies be sent into all parts of the World to invite the Women to this Association, and that a solemn League and Covenant be drawn up to the same purpose.

Resolv'd, that an impeachment be drawn up against the whole race of the Male Sex, and that a Committee be appointed to prepare Articles and examine Witnesses.

These resolves being made, the Assembly was adjourn'd till the next Morning, to consider of the waies and means to bring about this Important design.

*Die Veneris prox. post Quinden.*

*Omnium Diabolorum.*

The next day, the assembly being met again with every one a good Col-lation i<sup>n</sup> their Bellies, Madam *She-Devil* propounded a General Massacre, and put them in mind of the *Sicilian Vespers*, the *Irish Rebellion*, the Destruction of the *Waldenses*, and the Massacre of *Paris*, and that a certain number of Women might be sent in Men's Appa-  
rel to the Colledges of the Jesuits, there to learn their Maxims and Methods of proceeding in order to the carrying on so pious a work. This she said was a sure way, according to the *French Proverb*, *Dead Men never bite.*

The Dutchess of *Female Charms* propos'd the milder way of Resignation, then Chronicle 'em for Fools indeed, quo' Madam *She-Devil*; there's a proposal with all my Heart, Oh quo' the Dutchess you don't consider the force of *Female Charms*; Women do Miracles with those Engins, the Magnificent *Solyman* with all his Pomp and Pride was not able to resist the Charms of his *Roxobana*, then I am able to take the  
Moon

Moon by the Teeth, you may remember what was hinted by a worthy Lady the other day concerning the *Nick of time*; then again, they pretended to be guided by reason. If so, we are able to give them a thousand reasons more then they are able to contradict; If they are Govern'd by reason, we command that reason, and reason must be of our side, or else wee'l send Reason to the Devil. But suppose that the Male Sex had all the reasons in their heads, I am sure they carry none i<sup>n</sup> their Breeches, and there lies the chief Rudder of their Passions; there we stand at the Helm and can guide it as we please our selves. Ay, but, quo' the Lady *She-Devil*, why should we put things to the Hazard? *Tomyris* made sure work, she cut off *Cyrus's* Head; nay she did not think him safe then, till she had drowned his head and him to another Death in his own Blood. But cruelty, quo' the Dutchess of *Female Charms*, is a thing so unnatural to our Sex——— Y'are a Fool, reply'd the Lady *She-Devil*, why should we be less cruel to Men, then they are to themselves? We daily see how they destroy one another without Mercy, without

without Compassion, worse then the wildest of beasts, that never prey upon their own kind. Bears will not prey upon Bears, nor Wolves upon Wolves, Lyons live in amity among themselves, and Tigers live in Unity with Tigers. Only Men devour one another, and what pains do they take to do all this? What hardships do they endure to compass their designs of Mischiefe? Heats and Colds, Hunger and Thirst, Wounds, loss of Limbs, slavery and what not? Now if the Women save them all this labour, and do their own drudgery for 'em, by sending 'em from one quiet sleep to another, what injury do they do 'em?

But the Dutchess of *Female Charities*, still abhorring Cruelty argu'd stiffly against all such Barbarous Proceedings; and to stop the Lady *She-Devils* Mouth, propounded to get in fee with the Ministers, to perswade the Men to a Resignation upon the score of Conscience. The Women have been always their Great Friends hitherto, and therefore they had all the Reason in the World to oblige their Benefactresses with their utmost Diligence, and I make no question, quoth she, if they would set to work, but that they who could prove the lawfulness

fulness of the Imposition of Turnage  
 and Poundage by their great Book learn-  
 ing, may much more easily prove the  
 right of the Female Sex to the Sovereignty  
 of the World from the same  
 Authorities, I'll undertake (quo' she)  
 that am no Preacher to prove it from  
 the Confession of Zorobabel to King  
 Darius himself; O ye Men, said he  
 it is not the Multitude of Men that Ex-  
 cellet, who is it then that Ruleth them  
 or has Lordship over them? are they  
 Women? By which words it is plain that  
 Women have the sole Right of Superi-  
 oritie, which being so, then steps in  
 the Common Text, give Caesar his due.  
 Now to prove that by Caesar is meant  
 the Women is the easiest thing for a  
 nimble quick witted, Rhetorical man-  
 nager of Paradoxes to prove in the  
 World; And the thing being once  
 prov'd, then 'tis matter of Conscience  
 to obey, or else there's Hell and Damna-  
 tion in the Case.

The Lady She-Devil reply'd, that  
 many men had no Conscience, and  
 that it was a usual thing among 'em to  
 venture Eternity to rule the Roast in  
 this World for ten or twelve Years;  
 I have read of one Sixtus the Fifth, that

he was so ardently Ambitious of being  
 Pope that he gave his Soul to the Devil  
 for a lease of the Popedom, but for  
 seven years, out of which the Devil  
 couzen'd him of two to boot.

The Dutchess reply'd, that those were  
 not many perhaps two or three in a  
 Kingdom, and might therefore be easily  
 brought to conformity. And for that  
 reason to avoid Massacre and blood-  
 shed, there was no way like working  
 upon the Consciences to bring men to a  
 Renunciation; For that men were like  
 Trouts: if you can but once come to  
 tickle their Consciences, you may easi-  
 ly bring 'em to the Frying Pan.

The Lady *Lustful* propos'd the De-  
 struction of the Male Sex by hard La-  
 bour, and undertook to exhaust a thou-  
 sand a year for her own share; and  
 yet quoth she, this is more then I need  
 to do, for do but let every Woman  
 from twenty to fifty, but undertake to  
 exhaust fifteen a month for her propor-  
 tion, the work would soon be done.

The Lady *Fleshly-given* concurr'd in  
 opinion with the Madam *Lustful*, but  
 said, that the Lady *Lustful* was too  
 short in her allotments of no more then  
 seven a month to one Woman; for said  
 she,

she, we find *Mark Anthony* complaining of *Cleopatra* to his Friend *Saranus*, that she had admitted a hundred and six in one Night, according to which proportion every Woman might well be allowed seven in four and twenty hours, who if she took care to put Nature upon the stretch which strong Provocatives, might easily turn off seven in a weeks time, and so alluding four Weeks to a Lunary Month, one Woman might *Exhaust* one and twenty month, according to a true Arithmetical Calculation.

To which the Lady *Lustful* made answer, that it was not her Intention to be so precise or punctual in her prescription, but that every Woman might undertake according to her ability, and so that difference was reconcil'd.

The Countess of the *Bagno*, was for erecting *Bagno's* in every street in every City and Corporation throughout the Land, not said she, that I speak this for my own Interest, but because I know quo' she, these *Bagno's* are great weakners of the Natural strength, and that thousands and thousands of Men would be carry'd off in a Trice with cold and Consumptions, by the pleasing use of 'em.

The



The *Baroness* of the *Darby Ale-house* said, she had known great effects of that Ale, and wish'd that the men might be confin'd to drink no other Liquor but that well molos'd, and their *Layships* should quickly find a Consumption of the Male Sex answerable to their desires.

The Countess of *Brittle-ware*, was for the Infallible way of Destruction by Female Contamination, first care being taken to poison all the Drugs that were proper for the cure of the *French Disease*; or that there should be an Inhibition upon the Colledge of Physicians and approv'd Surgeons, and that none should be admitted to practise but *Montiebanks*.

With that the *Dutches* of *Decay'd Vertue* stood up, and having highly applauded the Lady that spoke last, by my feth, quo' she, I have quite another prospect then any of ye all. For here of late days I find the men going to destroy themselves faster then we can do it; I find such a vast increase of the Number of Taverns, such an infinite Rendezvouze to the Swell tubs of damnd adulterated, stumm'd and poisonous Mixtures of all sorts of that noble juice

E

call'd

call'd Wine, such a General debauchery; such a Universal thirst has seiz'd the Nation, and plung'd it into such a Sea of Drunkenness, that we shall see in short time the Men fall like Autumn leaves from the Tree of Life, and drop into their graves like rotten Plumbs; and then the Government of this Land, and what need we care for any other, will descend into our hands whither we will or no. And therefore Ladies take my advice, have a little Patience, I find the Tyde-turning already; the word *Patience* alarm'd the two Countesses of *Stormland* and *Rule-the-Ross*. Patience! quo' they, is this a time for Patience? Let us break forth into open Rebellion——— and first seize all our Husbands Arms.——— I say, let us take away their Weapons——— let me have 'em disabl'd, and the way to disable 'em is to take away their Weapons; and that the way to make 'em as tame as Capons; the way to tame your Lyons and your Mastiffs is to expeditate 'em, that is to pare their claws close to the flesh; let us stop up all the Iron and Lead mines; they destroy the Wood of the Country. Let us cut out their Drum heads, burn their pikes  
break,

break their Swords; and then for their Guns, said they, I, we have found out a way, when the men are at the Tavern, to stop 'em up and fill 'em with melted lead, and hide 'em in the Garret under the Maids Beds.

When the Men are thus Disabl'd, let us proclaim open War against 'em; and when they are got drunk, then's our time to set upon them. I have seen (said the Countess of *Storm-land*) a Man drunk as *David's Sow*, and his Wife has come and pummel'd him, that you would have thought she had been pounding of Sorrel to make green Sauce; and the poor fellow has been able to make no more Resistance than a Log to the wedge and the Beetle, and why was this? Because the Man was disabl'd, I say then (said the Countess of *Rule-the-Rod*) let us first disable the Men, and then rise up against 'em as one Woman. Private Families are but the Epitomes of Great Commonwealths, and how many Women are there that are Mistresses and absolute Queens in their own private Territories? The reason is, because they rebel against their Husbands; and generally, when the Women have the courage to rebel,

they get the victory; what should hinder then, but that what Women do separately in their particular Dominions, we thus united may do the same, in the great Body of the Commonwealth; at large I am apt to believe we are three to one in number; that is one at the head, another at the feet, and the third i<sup>n</sup> the Middle; and if the Enemy be stubborn, and won't yield take a knife and disable him for good an all.

Thus my *Lady Speaker*, we have delivered our Opinions faithfully and cordially, and our humble motion is, that the same may be put to the Question.

Thereupon, the Question being put, it was unanimously resolv'd, that there should be a General Insurrection on the Women's side; and that notice should be given by the respective Membresses to the Women in their several Counties to get themselves in readiness and to put themselves in a Posture accordingly; but the Month, Day, and Hour was left to a farther debate, and so the whole Assembly adjourn'd till eight a Clock the next Morning.

*Die Martis Cras. per.*

The next morning they met as punctually again, as if they had been under a Club forfeiture of twelve pence a piece, and the first thing taken into consideration, was, what form of Government they should make use of when they had got the power i<sup>n</sup> their Clutches.

Thereupon the Dutchess of *Babylon* stood up and highly applauded the form of *Confusion*, which she alleadg'd to be the first, and consequently the most Ancient form of Government upon the Earth; for that the first time we read that the People of this world were ram-mals'd together in one Body, was at the Confusion of *Babel*; she argu'd farther, that as the sweetest Harmony is procur'd by Discords, so the strictest unity was like to arise from Confusion; in like manner, said she, the *Chaos* was before the Creation, the wild Beasts of Desarts live without Statute Laws, Order or Discipline in a perpetual confusion and yet you shall not hear of one Battle fought among 'em, once in a Thousand years; and it is remarkable, that when People have liv'd some twenty years

or thereabouts in all the Peace and Tranquility imaginable, they are never at Quiet, till they are all in Confusion; nay, they make it their chiefeft design to plot and contrive diforder and confufion. And indeed the Form of Confufion is moft Agreeable to our Humours. View us at our Meetings, at our Goffippings, at our Chriftnings and Funerals. What a Noife, what a Confufion is there among us? When one Woman happens to fwoon at Church, what a Confufion is there among the reft? Go into every particular Family, and if ſhe be a right Woman, that rules the roaft, what a confufion is there? What is a Womans life without Brawling, Scolding, Rending, Tearing, Maundring, beating her Children, rating her Servants, reviling her Husband, and all the whole houſe turn'd topsie turvie? It is as natural for a Woman to live in Confufion, as for a Salamander to live in the Fire, or an Eel in the Mud, and therefore I ſay the form of Confufion is the beſt form.

Here the *Karaweffs* of *Tongue-Caſtle* ſtanding up, My Lady Speaker, quo' ſhe, before we come to any Reſolution in this affair it behoves us to conſider, what

what forms of Government there are; or have been in the World, that we may choose which we like best; you know Madam, that when we go to buy our Commodities at the Exchange we desire to see a great many Parcels afore we pitch upon that which pleases Us. And so it is requisite, that we should know what forms of Government there are before we conclude upon any certainty; Now I desire to know, whether ever there were any forms of Government or no; and if there were, how they are call'd, and by what marks they may be known.

The Lady *Polybinne* reply'd, that there were several forms of Government which were Commonly distinguish'd by the names of *Monarchie*, *Aristocracy*, and *Dimmocracy*, *Tyranny*, *Olygarchie* and *Anarchy*.

Now the Devil take me, quo' the Baroness, if this ben't all conjuring to me; I could as well chaw a Purrice stone, as one of these words, have they no softer preserv'd-Apricot Names than these? Why, now 'tis a strange thing, quo' the Lady *Polybinne*, Pleumder take, your Ladyship has read *Aristotle's Problems* — Yes that I have

quo' the *Baroness*———and yet you never read *Aristotles* Politicks———Not I by my faith———I never heard of 'em before——— why there 'tis, quo' the Lady *Polybinne*, had you but read the one as well as the other, there you had found all these hard Names sitting like a Covey of Partridges upon one side of a leaf of Paper. I bless my Education, I have read *Aristotles* Politicks, and the Lady *Newcastles* *Ogho*, and *Hobbs's* *Leviathan*, and can tell the meaning of all these hard Names.

Pray then, quo' the *Baroness*, be so kind as to impart your knowledge.

Why look ye then, quo' the Lady *Polybinne*, a *Monarchie* is that form of Government when a State or Kingdom is under the Government of one Person; and this the Men have alwayes accompted, I beseech ye Madam, cry'd the Lady *Lafy*, be not so sharp and severe against Tyranny; for though we do not love to be Tyranniz'd over by others, 'tis meat and drink to Us to Tyrannize over others. *Paradise* it self fore-told what *Vexers* we should be; and threw it then upon Us as a Curse: but we soon turn'd the Scales, and improv'd it to a blessing, esteeming  
ing



ing our selves never more happy than when we could Domineer and Tyrannize over our Husbands! Had Cain been marry'd, he had never been put to the trouble to go a rambling to build Cities in the Land of Nod; His wife would have taken his revenge upon her self, and been glad of the Opportunity; and therefore Ladies could we confine Tyranny within these Walls, and entayl it upon our heirs Females, 'tis not a pin matter whether Lawfully or unlawfully begotten, Tyranny were the most natural form of Government that we could desire, as being most suitable to our *Genius*.

You'l say 'tis impossible, but Interlopers would creep in among Us; that I answer, what have Men their Axes and Blocks, the Gibbets and Gallowses for, but to cut off Interlopers. And then again, it is remarkable that the Male Tyranny have been the most durable Forms of Government in the World, witness the *Turkish*, *Persian* and *Ethiopian* Tyrannies; and therefore, said she, when your particular Committees consider of these things, let them not forget to think of Tyranny.

Madam *Squeamish*, not liking this discourse, allleadg'd that there was not a more chargeable form of Government in the World then Tyranny, which the covetous and griping humor of Women would be soon weary of.

That the People under Tyranny liv'd poorly, miserably, wretchedly, neither able to defend themselves nor their Governors, that she lov'd to see the Subject in good plight, hearty and rich, blessing and not cursing their Governors; that they who had something to lose, would stick close to their Governors, when they who had nothing to lose, car'd not a rush which way the World went, well knowing their condition cannot be worse than it is: That the safety of a Government consisted in the Natives and not in Forraigners, the usual guard of Tyranny, who would be in continual Muriny, either for want of Pay, or else never think their Services fully rewarded.

Well! quoth the Countess of *Whiggland*, what think ye then of a Commonwealth? that is such a form of Government where the *Mobile* bear all the sway ——— whereas they go along the streets, they march in couples, a  
Brewers

Brewers wife, and Dutchess, an Alewife and a Countess, a Chandlers wife and Baroness, a Weavers wife and a Lady, the meaner still taking the Wall. Where Coaches must give way to Drays and Carts; and Porters are their own Gentlemen Ullers, and cry, make Room for themselves, and it is a Pillory business not to stand out of their way; for my part, quo' she, I propose this as a form that I have alwaies had a great kindness for, and have been long plotting to set up, but the Countess of *Toryland*, shame on her, has alwaies had the Whip-hand of me; for me thought it was but reasonable that the People should make their own Laws, since they were to be Govern'd by them.

If I mistake not, quo' the Countess of *Storm-land*, the Lady that spoke last has not giv'n ye a true description of a Common-wealth; for in Common-wealths, as I am told, there are neither Dutchess nor Countesses, nor Baronesses nor Ladies, or if there were, so much the worse: for it would be very Improper for persons of Rank and Quality to be familiar with Soap and Candle-Grease; now do I think it fitting

ting to admit the *Mobile* to the Govern-  
ment by any means, for what saies the  
Proverb, *Set Beggars a Horseback and  
they'll ride to the Devil.* And when the  
Devil has once got our form of Govern-  
ment in his Clutches, who shall retrieve  
it out of his Paws. I never lik'd any  
thing that was common i' my life; I  
hate the Fashion when it grows Com-  
mon, I can be merry and sipp off my  
glasses in a Countess-like-way; I can be  
kind to a friend when I see my time;  
but Common-toss pots, Common  
strumpets, Common-wealths, they're  
all alike.

Madam, quo' the Lady *Fleshly-giv'n*,  
I cannot jump with your sentiments;  
for nature surely at first made all things  
Common, till Law and pretended Ne-  
cessity invented Hedges, and Bolts,  
and Bars, and Matrimony, and such like  
Usurpations of Propriety; the World  
was but one vast Common-wealth at  
first, till *Mimrod* first impal'd a part of  
it to himself by Tyrannical force, and  
taught others to follow his Example.  
And what do all these impalements and  
enclosures of law and necessity signifie?  
Not a Rush. For when nature is once  
set upon the Merry Pin, down go all  
these

these Fences of scarecrow Morality, and we suffer our selves to lye Common as at first, as it is naturally therefore for Women to love Liberty, and to lay themselves Common, certainly there can be no form of Government so natural to the Female Sex as that of a Common-wealth which allow all the Liberty in the world.

The Lady *Voluble* reply'd that Women were to take their liberty, whatever the form of the Government were. But as they lov'd liberty, so they lov'd honour, now what delight can the Women take (said she) in such a form of Government, where the highest Title their Ambition can reach to, is only to be call'd Plain Mrs. *Burgomistress*, how sneakingly it sounds; I appeal to ye All, Ladies, whether it be a thing rational for us to admit of such a form of Government that will admit a Woman neither *Grace*, nor *Honour*; no, nor the home-spun Title of your *Ladyship*. 'Tis true when ye are all in a body you shall be courted perhaps with the stile of your *High and Mightinesses*, but no sooner out of the Council chamber, but all fellows at foot Ball again.

May that Woman die of a Clap that speaks for a Common-wealth for me, quo' the Lady *Nimble Clack*. Nay saith (quo' she) if your Common-wealths won't allow us our Titles, and our Dignities, and our Precedencies, they have lost a friend of the Lady *Nimble-Clack*; a Woman had as good live in Hell as in a Common-wealth: Nay I am apt to believe, added she, that a Common-wealth is a kind of a Hell upon Earth. For there, they say, Popes, and Emperors, and Princes, Dutcheffes, and Countesses, and Ladies, live Higgledy Piggledy without any more respect given 'em then we give to our Lacqueys; nay I am told the great Men of the World, *Xerxes*, *Cesar*, *Pompey*, &c. are not only depriv'd of their Hands, but forc'd to cry *Mustard*, *Old Hats* or *Cloakes*, and empty Houses of Office for their living. Which makes me think that Hell is a Common-wealth, and all Common-wealths are Hell.

There is another damn'd Inconveniency in Common-wealths, quo' the Lady *Volatile*, going on—— but in the best form that ever was in the world. What? quo' the Lady *Nimble Clack*,

to be govern'd by one Single Person ?  
 Yes qu' the Lady that spoke last —  
 Go's Niggers Daggers, qu' the Lady  
*Nimble Clack*, one Person rule all Us! —  
 If that be your Manarchie, away wi'  
 your Manarchie's, wee'l ha' none o'  
 your Manarchie's, soh upon 'em —  
 What say you Ladies, will you have  
 a *Menarchie*: will you have one Single  
 Person to controul ye all. With that  
 they all set up their Throats and cry'd —  
 Naw — Naw — Naw —  
 Naw. — No single Person —  
 No Manarchie — No Manar-  
 chie. —

Why, qu' the Dutcheſs of *Fantale-  
 Charmes*, would not you be willing to  
 have had Queen *Elizabeth* to have  
 reign'd over ye? Ay, qu' Madam  
*Nimble Clack*, Queen *Elizabeth* —  
 Now you say something — Queen  
*Elizabeth* was a *Phoenix*, where will  
 you find ſuch another? She clapper  
 claw'd the *Spaniards* in 88. and rod up-  
 on a horſe like any Thing — at  
*Tilbury Camp* — I have heard  
 my Grandfather ſay ſhe was a Woman  
 of ten Thouſand; *By*

By my troth——quo' the Bar-  
 oness of *Tongue-Castle*, I never lik'd  
 Queen *Elizabeth* in my life——  
 have seen her Picture upon *Ludgate*,  
 and methinks she was but a homely  
 Woman.—— And then, what a  
 strange fashion'd Gown did she wear;  
 I should be afraid, had I such a Gown,  
 that my maid would mistake the Kitch-  
 en shelves, and set up her Peuter round  
 about my waist——Naw——

Naw,—— I am for none of your  
 Queen *Elizabeths*——none of your  
 Monarchie's, not I. By'r Lady, this  
 is very fine indeed——I expected  
 we should have been all Queens, and  
 now to come and talk of a Plot——

This smells like a Plot——and  
 therefore my Lady Speaker, I humbly  
 move wae may hear no more on't.——

Thereupon the Lady Speaker desired  
 Madam *Polybinne* to give an account  
 of the next form.

Quo' she, the next form of Govern-  
 ment is that which the men call *Aris-  
 tocracy*; when the Government is in the  
 Hands of these that are of the highest  
 Rank and Quality in the Common-  
 weal; Ay marry——quo' the  
 Lady *Nimble Clack* now ye say some  
 thing



thing—— this same Cristocracee as  
you call it, comes something to the  
Point—— For if the Government  
must be in the hands of the Nobility  
and Gentry, then it must be in our  
hands—— for I look upon our selves  
as the best in the Parish—— that is  
to say, the best i' the Nation.——

Now what think ye Ladies? d' ye think  
we may challenge *Rank* and *Quality* or  
no?

May we! cry'd the Lady *Lofty*——  
nay we will do 't, and I would fain see  
that *She* that dares contradict my *Pedi-  
gree*; my Fathers Fathers great Grand-  
Fathers Sons Father came in with *William*  
the Conqueror, and the Conqueror  
gave him Ten Castles, and fifteen Lord-  
ships: and our Ancestors kept them  
too, till it was the Fashion for the Gen-  
try to sell their Lands; and then you  
know, when a Fashion comes up, eve-  
ry one strives to be i' the Fashion. But  
for all that, I must tell ye, that for  
*Rank* and *Quality*, i'te not yield to the  
best of ye all.

Quo' the Baroness of *Tongue-Castle*,  
my great, great, great, great Grand-  
mothers Daughters great Grandmo-  
thers Daughters Daughter was *Helen* of  
*Troy's*

*Troy's* Sister, and came along with Brutes and the Trojans into *England*.

Mrs. *Soake-Pot* told their Ladyships, that she knew not who was *Helen of Troy's* Sister, but she was sure of this, that her Family by the Mothers side had born for their Arms three *Jonas Whales*, in a green Field ever since fourteen year before the Flood, and that she had the Picture of one of her Ancestors at home, that had been Maid of Honour to *Nedorlaomers* Wife.

The Lady *Nimble Clack* deriv'd her Pedigree from the Queen of *Sheba*, who brought forth Queen *Ester*; who brought forth *Judith of Bethulia*, who brought forth *Cleopatra*, who brought forth *Europa*, whom *Jupiter* Ravish'd, from whence her Mother was descended in a direct line: and then for her Fathers side, she said, there was never a one in the Company could shew such a scroll with round Circles and Coronets upon 'em, as she could; the two first of which were Heathen Gods, and the three next also known *Hero's*, only she had forgot their names.

This *Brevado* of Madam *Nimble-Clack*, had like to have put the whole House into Confusion, for the Countess

of *Whigg* and *Tory*, to out-vye her was going to fetch her descent from *Lucifer*, himself, and the Dutchess of *Babylon* talk'd of nothing but *Darius's Grand Cyrus's*, *Semiramis's* and *Atossa's*, so that the storm was gathering apace, while one cry'd she was as well Born as her Ladyship, the other told her she ly'd; one call'd another *Tapsters Daughter*, another said her Mother was a *Gardners Wife*, and that her Husband was never *Knighthed* for his *Honesty*. And now it came to be *Cuds life Hussey*, and *How Baggage*——— *Speak such another word*,——— when the Dutchess of *Female Charms*, having without much ado perswaded silence; desir'd them for the sake of the Common interest to be quiet, and that every ones *Rank* and *Quality* should be consider'd by a select Committee appointed for that purpose, where they should every one of 'em have the liberty to put in, and make out their *Challenges*, when time requir'd, that as yet it was not reasonable, for that the Government was not as yet in their hands, or if it were, that it was not a straw matter of what *Rank* and *Quality* they were among themselves, when they intended

to go share and share like in the Government; that these were but bones thrown in by the Men to distract their Counsels, well knowing that nothing could serve them in their Dominion but our own Divisions.

These words were like the Sprinkling of sweet Wines among Bees in a skimmish, so that they sat down again in their places, though they could not but gloat upon one another like so many gibb Cats, so dangerous a thing it is to raise disputes among Women about Rank and Quality and Precedency, but then, quoth the Lady Nimble-Clack, this same *Cristocracy*, hold, there must be no Ladies and Commoners; for there would be as if some were better than other. No, reply'd the Dutcheff of Female-Charmes, in *Christocracy*, there must be no distinction of Houles, no difference between Ladies and Commoners; for why? for then Ladies would be Ladies, and Commoners would be but Commoners; which is directly against the nature of *Cristocracy*, where tho' many may excel in parts and knowledge, yet all are equal in Power and Authority.

Johnston your new, revised, and improved

Thus far quo' the Baroness of Torgue-  
Land, I like it very well——all  
that I fear is, that we shall never a-  
gree——but always be quarel-  
ling about one foolery or other; one  
Woman will insist to have this thing  
her way; another will have that thing  
her way, and if all be not done as a  
third will, then she'l be all Fire and  
Tow.

But the Dutchess made Answer that  
if they could but once agree upon the  
form, those things would be easily re-  
concil'd by the number of voices; for  
thereby the stronger party carrying it, the  
weaker must yield of Course, or else  
undergo those little penalties and forfei-  
tures that the stronger should lay upon  
em.

But here's a worse Inconveniency  
than all this; for they say these *Cristo-*  
*cracies* are subject to degenerate into  
*Tyranny*; now we had better continue  
as we are, slaves to men, then become  
slaves one to another, I know the fu-  
mor of Women too well to be a slave  
to a Woman. How! quo' Mrs. Numble-  
Clack will your *Cristocracies* degenerate  
into Tyranny? Away wi' your *Cristo-*  
*cracies* away with 'em, wee'l ha' none  
of

of your *Cristocracies*, they cry'd out  
 enough, enough—— no Common-  
 wealth, no Common-wealth——  
 all thing Common but Wealths——  
 Wealths in Common, and Common-  
 wealths are things of dangerous conse-  
 quence,—— no Wealth in Com-  
 mon—— no Common-wealths——  
 thereupon there was a Vote immedi-  
 ately past against all sorts of Com-  
 mon-wealths, *Ragusan, Venetian, Le-  
 Dutch, Swiss, Geneva, Genoa*, but espe-  
 cially against *English* Common-wealths—  
 for they, they said, were the wicked-  
 edest Common-wealths i' the world—  
 upon which the Countess of *Whigg-lam*  
 entered her Protest.

Come—— come—— Ladies  
 quo' the Countess of *Rule-the-Ross*, I  
 find ye must all be beholding to me  
 for a form—— I have one i' my  
 head, I'me sure, will please ye all——  
 my Husband, and he's one of your  
 book-learn'd *Cornuto's*, calls it *Anar-*  
*chæe*.

*Anarchæe*, quo' the Lady *Nimble-*  
*Clack*, Lord bless us, what a pretty  
 word is that? 'Tis a feat *Form* I war-  
 rant it—— the word is such a feat  
 word—— pray Madam go on——

I long

I long to know what this *Anarchie* is, then, quo' the Countess, *Anarchie* Ladies is a form of Government, where every Woman may do what she pleases; the Quakers and Anabaptists are all of this sort of Government.

Ay, ay, now we have hit the Nail on the head, quo' the the Lady *Nimble-Clack*. This is the form for my Money—*Laud*, that we should sit here hammering all this while and not sit upon this Form—where were my Brains I trow? Yet I knew there was such a form, but I could not sit upon that word, that pretty money fac'd word *Anarchie*; thank ye kindly—thank ye very kindly, Madam *Rule-the-Road*.

Why truly, my Lady Speaker, quo' the Countess, when I was first marry'd, I could hardly go to Piss without asking my Husband leave, I sent to the Taylor to come to me and he forbid him; I told him I wanted a new Gown, and he told me what should be my Matter—Ay, quo' I to my self, is it so? Then 'tis time to turn over a new leaf I feth, so at length I took heart-a-grace, broke open his Closet, he'd open his Scrutiny, took away  
the

the Money, sent for the Taylors, went  
to the Exchange, and told him I would  
do it, that I would, or else ———  
thus by degrees I got a Compleat Victo-  
ry, and ever after that I did what I  
pleas'd. Now as I did what I pleas'd,  
so every one i<sup>n</sup> the House did what they  
pleas'd, the Wenchs sat up all Night  
with their Sweet-hearts, and did what  
they pleas'd: the Foot-men and Pages  
Guzzl'd up the Wine and the strong  
Liquor and did what they pleas'd: the  
Dogs run away with whole Shoulders  
of Mutton and did what they pleas'd.  
Me thought it was the pleasantest sight  
in the World to see every Body do  
what they pleas'd ——— my Hus-  
band mutter'd, and mumbled, and  
grumbled, of which I took little notice,  
but went on doing what I pleas'd  
feasting my acquaintance, spending  
Revelling, throwing the house out at  
Window, and at length I sent my  
Gentleman, you know who I mean  
Ladies a' t<sup>o</sup>ther side the Water  
—— and there let him lye and  
be hang'd; and now Ladies the Town's  
my own, I do what I please, and I find  
it to be the most delightful form of Go-  
vernment that ever was invented —

God



God's Blessing of her heart that first  
set it up. —————

To the vote, to the vote with it,  
cry'd the Lady *Sensual*, this must be the  
term, when all's done. —————

Hold ————— quoth the Lady *Squeamish*  
I am not for it, that we  
should do what we please. —————

With that, there was a loud cry,  
to the Bar, to the Bar with her —————  
what speak against *Anarchee*? Speak  
against our doing what we please!  
Treason, ————— Treason, ————— have  
a little Patience, quoth the Lady *Speaker*,  
let the Lady tell her own tale first.  
Tis her pleasure to speak, and she must  
do what she pleases, or else you are  
Transgressors against *Anarchee* your  
elves. —————

Thereupon, the Lady *Squeamish* pro-  
ceeding, *Homes* home, said she, and  
the Publick's the Publick ————— Sup-  
pose we make the best Laws in the  
World for the good of the *Common-  
wealth*, must they be stifled and not pass  
because they don't please this Mrs. *Fid-  
elity-cum-fart*, or t'other Mrs. *Twit-cum-  
trot*? Feth and Troth, my Lady Speak-  
er, I tell ye my mind, I do think 'tis fit  
that every one do what they please. —

Quo' the Lady *Lofty*, Government is nothing without obedience—if we sit to command, and there be no body to obey I'de not give a T——d to command, if we command there must be obedience——— and it cannot be expected that we should enjoyn Laws and Ordinances to please every Body.——

If this be all——— quo' the Dutchess of *Female-Charmes*, i'lle reconcile this difference presently. Let every one of us make our own Laws according to our own Fancies, and humors, as shall please Us best; and so every one of Us shall be pleas'd in issuing forth our particular Commands and Proclamations, and when we have so done, let the People obey with Command, which Law, or which Proclamation they please, they that like your Law, let them obey You; they that like my Law, let them obey me; they that better like another Command, let them obey her; and so People shall be pleas'd as well with their own Obedience as with the Command, while every one yields a Voluntary Submission without controul, according to their Particular Affections. We find when there was such a Troop of Heathen Deities

the World, and every one rul'd the Roast at pleasure, none having any superior, but one Commanded one thing, another another; This God would be worship'd so, and that Goddess thus, the People then worship'd what God or Goddess they pleas'd. One worship'd *Saturn*, another *Jupiter*, another *Mars*, another *Venus*, as they pleas'd themselves; and so pleasing themselves every body was quiet & there was no harm done. Never did *Jupiter* envy *Venus*, because she had more Adorers then he; for being a Smell Smock, as he was, he understood the reason of it well enough; and thus it will happen in this form of *Common-wealth*, every one will obey as their affection, their dependencies, their interest, or their judgment guides them, which being their own Acts much of necessity be done with pleasure and delight, for these reasons I move my Lady Speaker, that no other form may be so much as mention'd beside that of *Anarchie*.

The whole House was astonish'd at the Wisdom of the Lady that spoke last, one said that *Minerva* her self had spoken, another cry'd that either some she Devil or else some *Sybil* spoke within her; and the Lady *Nimble-Clack*

was ready to put her brains out at her Ears, to think that she should be such a Dunce as not to hit of the Project, so that at length the whole House finding the Expedient to be unanswerable came to the following Resolutions.

Resolv'd, that Anarchee is the most Proper form of Government, to preserve the Peace and Tranquility of the Female Common-weal.

Resolv'd, that Anarchee being resolv'd to be such, it be the business of this House to settle and establish it with all convenient Speed.

Resolv'd, that who ever by Speaking, Writing, or Printing, shall utter or Publish any things to the prejudice or in Derogation of Anarchee, shall be adjudg'd and shall suffer as a Capital Enemy of the Female Sex.

All which Resolves being Order'd to be drawn into Bills, the House adjourn'd till the next Morning.

*Die Sab. prox. post di. Sat, antecedente.*

Though the next day were Sunday, yet they were loath to lose a day, knowing how much their business requir'd hast, to Church they were unwilling to go, presently because they were most of 'em in Men's Apparel, and besides

besides, they had neither a *Marshall*, nor a *Nye*, nor a *Goodwin*, nor a *Sterry*, to preach before them; therefore they heartn'd themselves up with an Old Proverb, *The better day, the better deed*, believing because their debates were to be about Religion, it would be the more excusable, and indeed it was no wonder that the Women should have their Religion to choose, when so many Men are in the same Labyrinth.

The Dutchess of *Decay'd Vertue*, the Countess of *Mirth and Glee*, the Countess of *Brickje-ware*, the Baroness of *In and In*, the Lady *Fleety-given*, the Lady *Sensual*, Madam *Fadomless*, and the Lady *Rantipol*, desir'd to be excus'd their attendance for that day, in regard they were altogether unacquainted with matters of Religion, and believing they could better spend their time at *Lantra-loo* or some other Chamber-practise, well knowing that their Consciences were not so streight-lac'd, but that they could dispence with playing at Cards a Sundaies, or any other time as opportunity offer'd it self. With these in the afternoon joyn'd the Countess of *Rant-land-shire*, and the Baroness of

F 3

Giddy-

*Giddy-Hall*, having first satisfy'd the nicety of their Morning Devotions with a Lecture out of *Cassandra*, and two or three short Homilies out of the Queen of *Navars* Novels.

But in the Grand Cabal debates ran very High; and indeed it was a matter of great Importance to find out what Religion was most Contentaneous to the Form of Government they had made choice of.

Quo' the Lady *Voluble* it is not in choosing Religion, as it is in choosing a Piece of Point Lace. I would undertake to see all the Point Laces in both the Exchanges in half a day ——— but I would not promise to survey all the Religions in the World in half a year, the Jewish Religion was the first in the World — but that is not for our Turn — for that allows the Men Plurality of Wives ——— but we must have a Religion that will allow Plurality of Husbands; and I doubt when all's done, we must be forced to make a Religion of our own. For I have alwaies lookt upon the Form of Government to be the Body, and Religion to be the Suit. Some call it the Cloak, but I say the Suit; now if the Suit be not made fit

to the Body, the Suit will never sit well; besides that it will be uneasie and troublesome. Thus the Gown and Cassock accommodates with Manichee, and Calvinism agrees with none but Common-wealths; but we wave both those Religions, as having utterly rejected both those Forms of Government as not being for our Turn.

The Lady *Rash* was for introducing of Mahometism; but it was allleadg'd against her, that that Religion shut the Women out of Paradise, and put 'em to dance an Eternal attendance with Infidels and Heathens, so that she recanted her proposal, tho' not without some regret, in regard the *Mahometan* Religion gave the Women so much freedom to *Paint* and *Wash*, while they durst hardly come to their Parish Assemblies, for fear of being openly rebuk'd for only restoring and repairing decay'd Nature.

*Quakerism* was utterly condemn'd, because it destroy'd the Manufactures of Ribbin-weaving and Gold-lace; besides that it held Plaies and Romances in Abomination. Those people, quoth the Lady *Fisgigg*, look all as if they were bewitch'd; the Women simper like so

many Possnets of blew starch upon the Fire; if you talk to 'em out of the Academy of Complements, they are as shie as so many Black Birds; court 'em in Scripture Phrase and they come to the line like so many well manur'd Hawks, meet Hypocrites, incorrigible dissemblers.

I hate a Hypocrite with my heart, quo' the Lady *Nimble-Clack*; I am for dealing fairly above board; they say the Anabaptists are the honestest people in the World, they'l not take a Penny more then they ask ye. —

Hang 'em, quo' Madam *Tomboy*, there's a Religion indeed! They never Christen their Children — they are a Niggardly Generation, that to save a little Burnt Wine and a few Boxes of Sweet-meats, destroy all the Pleasures of Female Society. They only go to a Pond and dowie one another, over Head and Ears, and so home again. Meet the Cynics not fit for Common Conversation; No, Madam, if we must choose our Religion among these sort of *Enthusiasts*, I am clearly for your *Ranters*. They are a jolly sort of People indeed, they meet together Male and Female, Higgledey Piggledy,

put



put out the Candles, put off their Cloaths and play at catch that catch can bravely without fear or Wit—— there's some Sport in this sort of Devotion Ladies—— and I believe it would suit very well with our Forms of Government.

By my troth, and I think so too, quo' the Lady *Rantipol*; I like a Religion that has some mettle in't not to sit dream, dream at Church, as it were in so many *Cornelius's* Sweating Tubs—— and so to a Muddy Ale-house at *Islington*; or a walk i' the Charter House Garden—— and then home to Repetition; What a World of Time is here lost? But the Ranters when they meet, improve their time, which is the only end of Meeting in the World.—— There's no Sect therefore in all *Rosse's* Catalogue like the Ranters—— I say—— let it be put to the Vote.

Not so fast pray now, quo' the Lady *Nimble-Clack*, we have forgot the Religion of the Papishes all this while. Methinks 'tis a very prery Religion; they have the featest way of Worship i' their Chappels, they Come and Go, and Go and Come—— and Pray

and Whisper and Laugh, and Laugh  
and Whisper and Pray all at a time—  
Methinks 'tis such an Easie way of go-  
ing to Heaven———— while others  
are pent up four hours together like  
sheep in *Smithfield* Pens upon a *Munday*  
Morning, and there they must stay  
murdering a farts, till the man with  
Kerchief about his neck has *said* out his,  
*say.*————

Cuds Life the Papishes! quo' the  
Countess of *Whigg-land*, Lord! Ladys,  
would you have us all Murdered in  
our Beds? They are all for Powder Plots  
and Massacres, and Rebellion; should  
we suffer our selves once to become *Pap-  
ishes*, we should never be at quiet  
among our selves; we should have  
the *Jesuits* among Us, those Monsters  
of People, Sawcer-ey'd, and Devil-  
pated; we should have nothing but  
*Plots* and *Contrivances* one among ano-  
ther to the utter Ruin of our Infant State.

Oh but quo' the Lady *Nimble-Clack*,  
I could willingly be content that we  
might have an Order of *Popes* among  
Us; I fancy a Triple Crown would  
become me mightily; if ye set up the  
Religion of the *Pap-shes*, we may so  
bring it to pass that all the *Ladies Go-  
vernantes's*

servantes shall be made Popes, and wear Triple Crowns to distinguish them from the inferior sort; or else we may give our selves the title of Cardinals and that's as well. I fancy we should look very Majestically in *Scarlet Gowns* and *Red Hats*.

But *Madam*, reply'd the Countess of *Whiggland* addressing her self to the *Lady Speaker*, the Gentlewoman that spoke last, does not consider that the very Garments of the Papishes are infectious; they will infuse into us all their evil qualities, make us covetous as they are, cruel as they; we shall be presently laying Taxes upon the Bawdy Houses, making people pay for confessing their sins. And then, another devilish inconvenience would follow, that should we use our selves to the Cardinals Habit, it would so habituate the Women to the practise of Male Venerie, that we should have 'em all grinding their Corn at the Mens Windmills, & so spoil the trade of their own Watermills, which would prove of very dangerous Consequence; or at least it would bring them to practise all together with one another without any consideration of the Men, as the Popes and

Car-

Cardinals converse and sport with their Catamites and He-Misses without any regard to the Women.

The Lady sensual inveighed bitterly against their fasting and penances, Especially the self punishment of Whipping, which she alladg'd was only for Beggars and vagabonds.

These were cruel Rubbs in the way of the *Papishes*; but nothing more hinder'd its advancement, then that it was accus'd of being guilty of Idolatry; to which they were told the *Papishes* were so fortishly addicted, that they would worship an Old Mapstick, if you could but make 'em believe it to be a Piece of the Great St. *Christophers* Pike-staff. Thereupon with a General Approbation they sent the *Papishes* to the Devil, not allowing of any Idolatry but what was given to themselves.

Quo' the Lady *Voluble*, why such a deal of stir about Religion? The less we have, the better——'tis that which still sets the men together by the Ears, and alwaies had done ever since there was any Religion in the World; and therefore, said she, we have but little Reason to be so fond of Religion——a little of that will go a great way,

way—~~that~~ we Women are not so  
sharp upon cutting one anothers throats—  
but if ye will needs set up a Religion,  
Ladies, as it will be very proper for  
outward Ornament, and shure you can  
never pitch upon a better Religion then  
that which they call the *Independant*,  
for as *Anarchie* permits every body to  
do what they please in *Temporals*, so  
*Independency* implys the same liberty in  
Spirituals; for they that depend upon  
*Nobody Nobody*, has any thing to do to  
contradict em: and I believe we should be  
as loath to be contradicted in Religion,  
as in the management of our temporal af-  
fairs. Now being *Independants* in our  
Religion, what has any body to do  
with us? but that we may do in Reli-  
gion what we please as we do in mat-  
ters of State; a Pudding is not so pat  
for a Fryers Mouth as an *Independant*  
Religion for *Anarchie*, your *Indepen-  
dants* are neither Debtors nor Creditors,  
they neither borrow nor lend their Re-  
ligion, but every one follows her own  
humor, either goes to Church or stays  
as home, according to her own humor,  
or as her cloaths pleases her, being *In-  
dependant* to all the World besides.

Then

Then again, said the Lady *Voluble*, she that is an *Independant*, has an Answer ready to all impertinent Questions. Whither are you going? saies my Husband, what's that to you say I, I am *Independant*, what made ye out so late? 'tis no matter, say I, I am an *Independant* ——— where have you been? I am an *Independant*, that is to say, no body is to question my Will or my Conscience ——— because I am *Independant* in Both. And thus, my Lady Speaker, here's the Proverb of *Trim-tram* as truly verifed as ever it was in this Earth; like form of Government, like form of Religion, as fit as Box and Box-lid.

Quo' the Lady *Rash*, pray give me leave to speak, I have not spoke yet — and I think I shall propose a Religion without exception; my Lady Speaker, in short, I propound the *Antinomian* Religion; this is a Religion that admits of no Law; 'tis positively an Enemy to all Law, but is a Passionate indulger of *Free-will*, now what would Women have more then to be lawless, and enjoy their *Free-will*; and this not only allowed by the form of Government, but by the Established Religion adapted to the form.

Madam,

Madam, quo' the Lady *Voluble*, my Opinion is that the *Antinomian* is the same with the *Independant*; for they that are *lawless* are *Independants*, and the same are also they that enjoy their *Free-will*; *Free-will* being perfect *Independency*, now therefore seeing the contest is only between *Antinomian* and *Independant*, I humbly move that *Independant* may carry it, as being the Topping Denomination, and a word less subject to Scandal.

Thereupon after a short debate it was resolved upon the Question, that the Religion of *Independency* was the only Religion agreeing to the form of Government, intended to be establish'd being *Anarchiee*.

Resolv'd, that so soon as we shall have set up *Anarchiee*, we will cast off the name of *Protestants*; and go by the name of *Independants*.

Resolv'd, that under the notion of *Independancy* there shall be a *Toleration* of all sorts of Religions, that ever were, or ever will be in the World; *Chinese*, *Bannians*, *Heathens*, *Turks*, *Jews*, *Tartars*, *Greeks*, *Romans*, *Lutherans*, *Calvinists*; *Papishes* only excepted, because the Constitution of the Nation will  
never

never digest 'em, but that the Independant be still the *Grande* of the whole *Flock*, the *Master Bee* of the whole *Swarm*.

Resolv'd that the Independants, Antinomians and Thelemites be all one.

These things being thus luckily resolv'd, the Grand Committee dissolv'd for the Present, and the Commoners return to their own House, where the leading Ladies resolv'd to set a hundred Gimcracks afoot; to which purpose they adjourn'd for a Week, to the end they might meet in the mean time and cabal what was fittest to be done.

Being reassembled it was order'd after a very short debate, that both Houses should have a great Feast, and a *Grand Gossiping* together, for the better maintaining of Amity and good Correspondence.

Mrs. *Soake-pot* mov'd that there might be a Clock set up i' the House, for that she knew not how the time went away—but the Lady *Nimble-Clack* was utterly against the Motion, saying, that it was only for Nuns and Prickers of Clouts that wrought by the day to count the Hours. Business never minds what a clock 'tis——let me talk till I'm weary (quo she) and then give over—

I love



I love a Gold Watch, purld with Dia-  
monds to hang by my side for orna-  
ment——but for Clocks and Clock  
Makers, let 'em all go to the Devil——  
shall I when my tongues upon the Gal-  
lap, put a pegg i the root of my Clap-  
pet, because the Clock strikes——  
not I, by my feth——— what a fine  
sight it is to see a Sun-dial upon a Church  
Wall, with your *Cambridge Pun* at the  
Bottom, we must—— But by this you  
may see what silly Creatures Men are to  
tickle themselves with such Idle Fancies  
and Gimcracks——away then with  
your *One, two, three's*—— and your  
*Dye-a'lls*—— let us live, and talk and  
be merry, and let Time with his Sith,  
and his Hour-glass, go and Contemplate  
at *Salamanca*, and come when we send  
for him——

While they were thus debating, of  
a suddain they heard a most hideous  
noise in the Court before the House,  
as if all the City Crys had been setting  
up their Throats in one Compass of  
Ground, some with dirty Forhead  
pieces, some with fowl Night rails,  
some with lac'd shoes all unript——  
dirty Gloves, torn Mantuas, taudry  
Coronets, as if they had come from the  
Plunder

Plunder of Long-lane; Yawling, Bawling, Raging, Fuming, Fretting, Sweating, Headgear disorder'd, here about their Eytraes, like so many Bels-a-Bedlams. It seems the Common Curtezans having intelligence of this *Grand Sessions* of the Ladies, and well knowing themselves to be so Considerable a Body of the Female Common-weal, look't upon it as an affront that deserv'd their highest Indignation, to be so neglected, as not to be thought worthy being Summon'd to a Place, where they thought they had equal Right to have their shares in Counsel. These Considerations put them into such a fury, that they presently muster'd together under the leading of *Betty Mackarel*, and *Orange Moll*, and march'd all night carrying several of their *Bullies* with 'em, intending to have surpriz'd the Ladies in their Quarters; but not being able to travel far without a sup of the Brandy Bottle, they made a stop at every good Town, so that the Ladies were late before they could reach the Place of their Meeting. The Ladies beholding such a Frantick Rout, and hearing such a Terrible Hurley Burley, sent out the Lady *Rantipal*, the Lady *Fadamless*, Madam *Tomboy*, and

and Madam Noise, to know what was the matter.

Betty Mackarel made 'em no Answer, but press'd on with all her train, with an attention as it was thought to have broken open the Doors of the House, and to have made their Entry, not after the manner of foreign Embassadors, but like so many Middlesex *Bumms* upon a *Habere Facias Possessionem*. Which the belorn hope of Ladies seeing, they sent in for the rest of their Membresses, and in the mean time bestirr'd themselves with such an Amazonian Valour, that they put the whole Body of the leud Rabble to a stand; the Ladies perceiving their few friends so hotly engaged, came running forth with every one a Cushion in her hand, and to their immortal praise be it spoken, bestow'd a most liberal Voley of Turkey-work upon the Enemy, who were no less diligent to return 'em their Aruillery back again with the same Dexterity; This Cushion skirmish continu'd till the Flocks began to fly about their Ears, and then they came to a close fight, which was maintain'd on both sides for a time with that fury, that it would have made your heart ake, had you not been a Millener,

Millener, to see the dismal waste of Hood  
nad Scarfs, Silk Mantuas, Men's Coats and  
Cassocks, lac'd Petticoats, she that was  
fine, as *Come and see*, but now, the  
next moment would have been glad  
a Figleaf to cover her Nakedness; you  
would have thought they had been tearing  
one another for the good of some  
Paper-mill; some with their Noses and  
Cheeks all bloody; others with their  
Faces all bespirt; others with their Eyes  
dun'd up like an Ovens Mouth: for  
their very fear had furnish'd 'em with  
materials for their Cruelty. The floor  
lay cover'd with pieces of Buttocks, bits  
of Chins, tips of Noses, scraps of Ears,  
as thick among the strewings of sweet  
Herbs, that you would have thought it  
had been a mixture for *Lombardy Pies*,  
several *Bullies*, coming to rescue their  
Mistresses, had their Chitterlings so  
stretched that they quite lost the use of  
'em.

At length, *Betty Mackarel*, and *Orange  
Moll*, being taken Prisoners, the *Gil-  
Trapes's* having lost their leaders, and  
the Ladies having their bellies full, both  
sides began to pause: and both sides be-  
ing willing to lye by to mend their Rig-  
ging, there followed a Cessation of Arms.

And

And now every one began to seek their own——but alas among many Raggs and Jaggs and ratters of fine Holland, Calico, Dowlas, Jersey, Chalcon and other stuffs; that such an endless work, that they were to be content with what they could get.

They that could not find their own new, must take anothers Red, and they that could not match their own must take anothers Black; happy she that could get a piece of any colour to serve turn. The Common calamity made all things allowable; they could send for recruits.

The Ladies of the Upper House, during of the Fray, kept themselves safe, till the skirmish was over, so say'd Sir Bacon.

And now as their Passions grew cold, they began to consider what they had done, and what all this was for, the Ladies, re-assum'd their Places, here one with her arm in a string, another with a black patch upon her cheek, a third with a piece of Bown Paper over her eyes——never was seen such a ragged Regiment at the General Election of *Salomon* King of the Beggars.

By

By and by *Betty Mackarel* and *Orange Moll*, were called in, and Chairs were brought them to sit down, for they were scarce able to stand; being late the Lady *Quaint*, as Speaker, demanded of them the reason of the late unexpected and unseasonable Hurley Burley.

Ladies, reply'd *Betty Mackarel*, for I was both nimble of Tongue, and of great experience, you need not wonder, we took it so much in dudgeon as we did to see our selves so much concern'd and slighted by those who had so little Reason to do it. Surely said she, you could not but think we were flesh and blood as well as you; and what flesh and blood could endure to sit still with our hands in our Plackets, to see such a considerable body of the Female Common-wealth excluded from our Birth-right; as if the general Consultations for the general good of the Female Sex were not of equal Importance to Us, as to yourselves: or indeed as if you could do anything without me, or those of my Profession, when we came to your Chamber under the pretence of bringing ye Malacotoons and boon Christians, and were wont to conveigh your Love

Not

Notes and Ballets to ye in fair bunches of Grapes, then it was in a kind and familiar stile, Dear *Betty Mackarel*, *Honest Orange Moll*——and when we came again to receive your answers, then it was in a most obliging manner, *Honey Betty*, *Sweet Moll*, this was private Chamber Practise, smoothly, handsomely, secretly, carry'd on, and d'ye think we are not as able to manage a publick intregue against the Male Sex for the Publick Good? What could we think but that you were driving your own interests on to our Detriment; and that you were going about to deprive Us of our Ancient and undeniable Liberties and Properties. Ple assure ye Ladies we look'd upon it as a heinous piece of Ingratitude, and it made our blood boyl within Us.——

*Betty* having thus delivered the sence of her whole Train, they were both ordered to withdraw.

The doors being shut, the House enter'd into a deep debate concerning this business——The Lady *Polybinne* alledged that the Ladies of *Rome* had admitted the Roman Curtesans into Common Culsultations with them about the Elections of the Popes, for which they

they gave most solid reason, for that they were tax'd in the Popes Books, and pay'd largely toward the increase of his revenue, and therefore since it could not be expected but that the Curtezans would be assess'd toward the support of the Female Anarchie, they ought to be accounted Members of the State, and consequently have their votes by their Representatives in our Female Sessions as others our subjects have.

Totell ye truth cry'd Mad. *Fadomless* I know no such difference between them and Us, they are Daughters of Joy and so are We. Only we have the best of the Market; like will to like, the rich to the rich, the meaner to the meaner sort, for my part ever since I have known the World, the World has been the World, and things have gone still in the same Road; the Ladies and the *Daughters of joy* have been alwaies the same thing, and there's ne're a Barber about the Town but well knows, that under the Appellation of Lady is comprehended that of a *Daughter of joy*, and under the name *Daughter of joy* is comprehended that of Lady, only with this destination, that the Ladies were secret *Daughters of joy*, and the *Daughters*



laughter of joy, Publick Ladies.  
 These reasons prevail'd, and it was  
 thereupon resolv'd that the Misses Cur-  
 tezens should be admitted to vote and  
 act by their Representatives; and be-  
 cause the Curtezans had, it seems for-  
 merly yeilded the title of most Excellent  
 to the Ladies, therefore it was ordered  
 by the Ladies, that every Representa-  
 tive Curtezan should enjoy the Title  
 of your Ladyship.

Things thus compos'd, Betty Mack-  
 eel, and Orange Moll, with such others  
 as they should think fit, were again  
 called in, to whom the Lady Quaint  
 declared the Resolves of the House in  
 the following Speech.

Most Dear and beloved Lady  
*Procurers and Curtezans,*

Have often heard my Brother when  
 he was a School Boy frequently repeat  
 a Latin Fragment, of which the Eng-  
 was this; The Falling out of Lovers  
 the renewing of Love. I must con-  
 fess this has been a fatal Day, a bloody  
 day, a day to be blotted out of the Al-  
 manack. Women sometimes, that's very  
 G *senior,*

seldom, do govern their Passion, and some times, that is, much more frequently, do not. But now we are going to govern the World, we must learn to govern our selves better; we have this day rent and torn and batter'd one another, about a parcel of Goates-wool, as the men say; for my part, I wish we had been all sick in our Beds when this Hubbub happened. But Ladies, it is in vain to recal what is past, we are now to think of Reconciliation, now they say, Shitten come Shitten is the beginning of Love, come on then, do you Cack in our hands, and wee'l Cack in yours, then shake fists together, and all shall be well.

I am farther commanded to tell you that it is the Ladies desires that you choose your Representatives who shall be freely admitted to the publick Consultations, and have their free Voice equal with the rest, assuring your Lordships that it was their Intentions and Resolution to have been as careful of your Priviledges and Immunities, as if this Battle had never been fought; and for the farther preventing of all contentions Animosities, Assaults, and B

series for the future, they have order'd that from henceforth, all such as shall be chosen by the Town Misses and Curtezans, whither Plyers or Standers at Mark for their Representatives in this present Sessions shall be allowed the Title of Ladiship, and shall be incorporated into the Company of Ladies of Rank and Quality.

The Lady *Quaint* having finish'd her Speech, deliver'd a Coppy of it to the two Commissioners, who having read it to the Rabble, and made a Comment of Moderation upon it, they were all very well satisfi'd.

Thereupon they fell to the Election of their Representatives, and presently made choice of *Betty Mackarel*, the *Lady Bennets*, *Moll Hind*, *Orange Moll*, *Betty Darby*, *Young Currier*, *Winnny Hack*——and several others, who were presently admitted, and took their places accordingly.

Peace being thus concluded on both sides, the House adjourn'd till the next Morning, having made three Orders before they rose.

First, that there should be a General day of Thanks-giving throughout the Female

male Common-weal, for the happy union concluded between both Parties, and that Parson *Bull* and the Vicar of *Croydon* be desired to preach before the House.

Secondly, that a Considerable summe of Money be taken up upon the publick Faith to defray the charges of the late Dammmages, and that Commoners be appointed to make an Estimate of every Persons particular losses.

Thirdly, that Bonfires should be made at Night in the Court-yard of the Parliament Palace; and that the *lady Carterians* be desired to get their Fire-works ready to delight all Commers, and Goers.

By this time the Impeachment against the whole Race of the Male kind was finished and brought in, wherein they had aggravated to the full height not only all their sins of Commission from the beginning of the World to the day of the Date, but also their sins of *Omission*, but more especially that damnd fowl *Italian* sin of Poaking for Generation in the Bowels of their own Sex; to the great Scorn, Contempt, Neglect, and Reproach of the whole Common-weal of Women.

In the next place they took it into consideration, that Men had been for long time framing and patching up several Laws and Statutes for their own use and advantage, which would by no means agree with the Female Pile of Man-modelling which they were going to erect.

To which purpose they condemn'd all the Statutes of *Ability* and *Nonability* *secula seculorum*, and made it high treason for any body to be Judges of *Ability* or *Nonability* but themselves.

And whereas by a Statute in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of Ed. 6. the Men had contrary to all *bonos mores* restrain'd the use of millmills it was look'd upon as a high Breach of Female Priviledge, and the Statute ordered to be utterly abolish'd.

They confirm'd the statutes of *Glocester* and *Westminster* about *Cessavits*, with this addition that he that ceas'd in *Biennium* should be sent to the Devil without Bayl or Mainprise. Great care was taken in the next place that no Women might want a *Habeas Corpus* as men as she desir'd it; but as for the writs of *super sedas*, it was left to the

Discretion of the Women to make use  
of them when they saw their time.

Here the Question was put, what  
Laws should be made concerning Ma-  
trimony and Cuckoldry; which Motion  
was no sooner made, but the Lady  
*Fadomless*, the Lady *Lustful* and the La-  
dy *Sensual* began to set up their throats  
and so ask'd the Lady *Quaint*, as Speak-  
er, why she permitted such a Motion  
to be made; for quod the Lady *Lustful*  
in behalf of the rest, 'tis very true that  
while men had the Reines and Bridles  
of Government in their own hands  
they have all along endeavour'd to im-  
pale the Female Sex to themselves  
and by Matrimony and custom to make  
marty'd Women their particular Pro-  
perties, as if they had an absolute pow-  
er of disposing Women as they please  
and that they were their own as the  
Gloves and their Canes; or else by  
kind of Pye-corner-Law. This Chum  
of Beef is mine because I have put  
Scewer into it.

For this reason so soon as we shall  
hold upon the Curbs, and Snaffles of  
Rule, we shall turn things into another  
Channel; and you shall see it will be  
much

much better with the World then formerly.

You say very right, said Madam Fathomless, ——— for now then we shall see Women free, and Nature at Liberty. I would fain know when a Woman was resolv'd to make her Husband a Cuckold; what all the watchings, and wardings, and spies, and sentinel signified, though every one had been an *Argos* with a Million of Eyes? For that if a Woman had a mind to Cuckold her Husband, it was the same thing as if fate had destin'd him to that inevitable Doom. And therefore were not men a Company of *Cack-thoughts*, Cuckowbrained Ninnies, Hammers, to think to make the Planets run retrograde, to turn the Motion of the Sphaeres: or stop the Ebbing and Flowing of the Sea, which they might as well do as prevent their being made Cuckolds. And indeed it was but reasonable, that Matrimony should have that continual unlucky fortune attending upon it, which Reprobate Man, has hitherto so unjustly made use of to Chain and Mue us up; contrary to all the Laws of Nature and Reason. Now

it is apparent that we have liv'd all this while under the Scourges of unjust and unreasonable force, and therefore the Revenges which we sought and practis'd, were no more then what the unwarrantable proceeding of Men deserv'd; and these are your infallible Reasons that 'tis as impossible for a man to avoid Cuckoldry as 'tis to take the Moon by the Hornes. Unless a man could wear upon his Finger *Hans-carvels* Ring which the Devil gave him in his Dream, as he lay a Sleep with his Wife, and when he wak'd he found his Finger in his Wive's, &c. —

With all Reverence to *Mahomet* be it spoken, quoth the Lady *Fleshly-given*, there is no other way to avoid Cuckoldry as the Men had order'd their affairs, but we shall set a new face of things upon the Shoulders of the World; For I do not believe 'tis the Judgment of this House that we ever intend to Marry. —

No by my truly, quoth Betty *Mackarel*, we'll ha' no more of your *I Tom take thee* T — — — — — ds — — — — — we'll ha' no more of your *serve honour and Obedience* — — — — — but every one shall take as



many as she pleases at board wages,  
 way of Subjection. Now  
 suppose my Neighbour have a desire  
 have a piece of my raw flesh.—  
 It may be said *Orange Moll*, I may  
 have a desire to have a piece of yours—  
 this is but fair Exchange, as the Change  
 comes.— what I lend I lend, and  
 that I borrow I borrow.— this  
 no thing of Cuckoldry.— And  
 shall the fear of Horn bearing never  
 trouble the silly World more.—  
 the horror of that Hobgoblin shall  
 cease, and which is pity, Brow-anchors  
 shall never be the Ornaments of suspi-  
 cious Jolt-heads, and jealous Jobbernols  
 again.— I have observ'd, quo-  
 the Lady *Sensual*, that all your Law-  
 givers of the Male Sex, have had the  
 worst luck with their Laws, of any  
 People i'the World; in their restraints,  
 which they have lay'd upon Women:  
 and that among the rest there is nothing  
 more slighted, more contemp'd, more  
 trampled upon, nothing less regarded  
 then Matrimony; a thing no more  
 minded by the Women then St. Peter  
 minded his Cathedral at Rome. The  
 men did not consider, that nothing

so much encreases Female desire as the  
 forbidding the Use of a thing; Women  
 are never more adry, then when they  
 have no drink i<sup>n</sup> the House; I could  
 muster up a hundred stories to prove  
 this, qu<sup>o</sup> the Lady *Valuable* —  
 among the rest I remember a certain  
 Gentlewoman, that look't always as  
 grave and demure as an Owl in a  
 Bird Cage; you would have Sworn  
 that the strings of Matrimony had they  
 been no stronger then Cobwebbs would  
 have held her, one would have thought  
 that she had had a Husband too that  
 might have given her content, proper,  
 handsome, and well proportion'd, neat  
 in apparel, gentile in his behaviour, and  
 witty in conversation. But for all that,  
 this Woman falls disparately in love  
 with a certain *Baconfac'd, greasy, nasty,*  
*tatterdemallionly subberdegullion*, that  
 taught the Parish Children for a groat  
 a week; this same walking dunghill  
 so infernaliz'd this same Woman, that  
 she never left tell she had got him into  
 the House to teach a Sisters Son of hers,  
 having no Children of her own; in  
 short she so order'd the matter, that her  
 Husband was the man must invite him.

He

He was the person that innocently  
 teach'd the *Cock* to the *Hay-House*, and  
 so this Pumkin of a Pædagogue was  
 presently brought home with his haw-  
 kingbag containing a wardrobe which  
 consisted only of two patch'd Shirts,  
 and three old Books, and lodg'd by  
 the Mistress in a Chamber convenient  
 for her purpose.

I need say no more; you may be sure,  
 she, that had such a perswading fancy  
 that the Pædagogue by his nose was  
 furnish'd like an Emperor, was not  
 long before she found an Opportunity  
 to satisfy her Curiosity.

I could tell ye Ladies, cry'd Madam  
*Non-Denye* of another Gentlewoman,  
 who being the Vicar of the parish put  
 out his *Hyperbole's* and make water un-  
 der her Window, was so besizeny'd  
 with his Codpiece Furniture, that her  
 soul took no rest till she had brought  
 him to hold forth much more to the  
 purpose in her Pulpit than in his own.  
 But we need not go far for stories of this  
 Nature; for should some of Us give  
 an accompt of our own Lives; I make  
 no Question, but you would find as  
 good Reading in Modern History, as  
 in

in any of the Legends of former Ages. Cat will after kind, and there's no thrusting back nature, tho it be with a pitch-fork.

Thereupon it was mov'd that a Bill shou'd be brought in for repealing all the *Conjugal Laws* that ever were made since *Noah's Flood*, but it was alledg'd that there would be no need of putting themselves to that trouble, for that all Matrimonial Laws, Ceremonies and Formalities would fall of course upon the change of the Government.

There is one great Convenience more that sprouts forth and erects it self out of this Abrogation of Conjugal Laws, for thereby, quo' she, we shall remove two great sins at once out of the World and ease the Pulpits of a great Deal of Lip-labour, I mean *Adultry* and *Fornication*, for Adultry can never be committed where no Property can be claimed; Nor can she be said to Commit Fornication that has her Body solely at her own dispose, and keeps her Maidenhead for no bodies satisfaction but her own, and when she parts with it, parts with it to please her self, not him that has it. There's no deflowring

ing in the case, nor depucclating, no trumps for anothers having had a Sop, in the Pain before hand, no Seaudah for coming in three Months, no injury done of either side, when a Woman may have as many Fathers for one Child as she pleases, since the Birth alwaies follow'd the Belly, nor was it an Acorn matter, who was the Father.

Thus *Cuckoldry*, or *Wittalry*, Fornication and Adultery were to have made their Exits all together, and a kind of *Community* was to have made it's Entry.

Only it being consider'd that the Baroness of *Horn-fair* and the head Landlady of *Cuckolds Point* would be considerable losers by this same lopping off the Entayle of their *Demeaners*, a private Bill was order'd to be brought in to give them plenary Satisfaction out of the Lands of that Italianiz'd Son of *Despotic Tyranny* that stood impeach'd for Padlocking his Wives Limbeck of Salt Water.

Next day a Bill was order'd to be brought in for the Suppression of Ale-houses and Taverns, for that men be-  
ing

ing hence forward not to have any thing to do about the waſt, the Women were reſolv'd to keep them under their girdles, and to preſerve them from the damages of continual Wear and tear by a due obſervation of temperance and ſobriety; for that was a certain Rule, that as *Venus* grew impotent without the Aſſiſtance of *Ceres* and *Bacchus*, ſo men's indulging themſelves too much to the Service of *Bacchus* render'd them unfit for *Venus's* Gambolls.

Another bill was order'd to be brought in for the prevention of hard ſtudying, and for encouragement of Idleneſs.

As to the firſt, it was alleadg'd that there was nothing like hard ſtudy, to cauſe a diſſipation of the Spirits, the waſt whereot being a Total prevention of their conveighance to the parts of *Duty Now* and *Anon too*; hinder'd intumidation and decay'd ſtrength of Natures incumbent to the great Detriment of Female Expectation. Therefore it was that *Minerva* the Goddeſs of your Book-worms was ſaid to be a Virgin; and that *Cupid* being ask'd by  
his

his Mother *Venus* why he never assail'd the Muses, he answer'd, that they were so intent, one upon Star-gazing, another upon the Reconciliation of Debtor and Creditor, another upon her *Diapente's* and *Hexachordon's*, another upon one thing, another upon another, that he no soon came nere 'em, but it presently put him into such a fit of Hypochondriac Melancholy to see them so hard at work, that he immediately unbent his Bow, shut up his quiver, and put out his Flambeau, partly out of shame, partly out of fear to hurt 'em.

As to the second, the Lady *Lustful* alleadg'd, that there was nothing so advantagious to the Female service as Idleness, *Ovid* being asked why *Egists* was so great a Cuckold maker, answer'd, because he was an Idle Fellow, take away Idleness out of the World, and Monsieur *Cupid* may go hang himself with his Bow and his Arrows, as one that would soon become *Bankrupt* with the expence of daily recruiting his quiver; therefore the Philosopher being ask'd what sort of insects Love Toys were, answered, the Passions

ffions of Idle minds; and another grave Monsieur, Grey-beard said, that Lechery was the Occupation of people not otherwise employ'd.

This debate produc'd an order for the bringing in two Bills more. The one for a General Massacre of all sorts of Books, Historical, Theological, Astrological, Physical, Gresham, Collegerical, Romanical, Hermotical, Trismegistical, all treatises of the Arts of woing and Complementing, and more particularly for the committing of *Bagnals Ballet* and the *Government of the Tongue* to the Consumption of a Flam 'fit to Burn and Smother the Scandal of two such Egregious Libells.

That both the Universities and all Schools of Learning be suppress: there being nothing that has made men so presumptuous to Crow over Women, then the Opinion of their Book-knowledge, and their converse with blind needy Poets, and thredbare Philosophers. But ignorance is the Mother of Devotion; therefore as they have been hitherto learning to be learned, let'em now learn as long to be ignorant.

Pro-



Provided never the less, and be it enacted, any thing herein to the Contrary notwithstanding, that *Aloysia Steger*, *L' Eschole de fils*, and *Peter Arctines* discourses be translated, and fairly Printed for the Particular good of the Female Common-weal; and for the General Instruction of Youth, and that the liberal sciences therein contain'd be publicly taught in two particular Boarding Schools to be erected for that purpose, the one in *Blow-blader-street*, and the other in *Honey-lane* market.

After this they again fell to repealundry of the Statutes formerly made in the Mens Raign, and more particularly condemn'd *Magna Charta*, especially that clause of it, that men should be try'd by their *Peers*, for said they, though men cannot presume to be our Equals, yet by the new Alteration of Government, all tryals of Men hang to our selves besides the impossibility that Men should be able to try men so well as Women.

They were exceedingly astonish'd when they came to look upon the state of weights and measures and found

found that in those times a yard was to contain three Foot by the standard of the Exchequer. They cry'd that those Statutes sure were made in the time of the Gyants; no such yards having been seen or heard of for these many Years: and therefore they took great care to have those statutes utterly defac'd with a Sponge dipp'd in Lamb black and Size, because they would not have that continually in their Eye which they could not hold in their hands.

With the same fury they utterly conceal'd the Statutes of *Wast* and *Wills* for they never look'd any farther than the Titles of the Statutes, and if they saw any thing that seem'd to trench upon their humor, they gave it a Dab incontinently, there was but a word and a blow. And so believing the Statutes of *Wast* had been against the Profuseness of Women; and that the Statutes of *Wills*, were made to curb and bridle their passions and to hinder their Domineering at *Revers*, they presently damn'd 'em without any more ado, debarring all pleas demurrers, or Arguments whatsoever.

No

Now as there never was a Parliament without a *Projector*, here was one that address'd himself to the Ladies of a strange *Kidney*. He was a Doctor of Physick that had been of all the Religions that ever were since *Adams* time; He had cur'd a *Rag-muffin* of the Neapolitan Canker only by touching his Back-bone three times with a piece of the Merry thought bone of a Young Pullet: He cur'd all sorts of *Timpanys*, Fevers, Consumptions, Gouts, Dysenteries, and a hundred other diseases by ordering the Patient only to shut his Mouth and open his Eyes for a time; he cur'd the *Erysipela* and all manner of Inflammations by applying a Fox tayl to the Patient under the left Arm-hole.

This Doctor having the Conceit in his Brain, was resolv'd to be his own Midwife, and so brought himself to Bed in several sheets of Paper Printed upon one side, which were presented to all the Membresses as they went into the Houses. Wherein he set forth what hearing the Women were going about to alter the  
Em-

Employments of Men, he had found out a way to make the men give Suck, and sofwell out their Breasts and Nipples after the manner of Women, which would be a great ease to the Women, and take a World of trouble of their Hands.

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**The rest is to come.**

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